



# IT'S ON!

## *The new National Christmas Tree lights up*

The National Christmas Tree is pictured after it was lit by President Barack Obama, first lady Michelle Obama, and daughters Malia and Sasha Obama at the Ellipse across from the White House in Washington, Thursday, Dec., 1, 2011.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)





The National Christmas Tree is pictured with the White House in the background after it was lit on the Ellipse across from the White House in Washington, Thursday, Dec., 1, 2011.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

## The new National Christmas Tree lights up

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The new National Christmas Tree is getting its holiday on.

President Barack Obama and his family lit the tree in a ceremony just after dark Thursday. It's the 89th year for the holiday tree lighting, a tradition that began with President Calvin Coolidge in 1923.

Obama urged the crowd to be generous and to help others in need during

the season including "the homeless, the hungry, the sick and shut in."

Obama also welcomed troops returning home in time for the holiday and advised Americans to give "thanks and honor to our troops and our veterans and their families who sacrifice so much for us."

The new National Christmas Tree was planted in March on the Ellipse south of the White House. □



President Barack Obama, with daughter Sasha and first lady Michelle Obama, with Malia, arrive for lighting of the National Christmas Tree at the Ellipse across from the White House in Washington, Thursday, Dec., 1, 2011.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)



Argentina's President Cristina Fernandez waves as she leaves Miraflores presidential palace after a meeting with Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez in Caracas, Venezuela, Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011. Fernandez is in Venezuela to attend the Community of Latin American and Caribbean, CELAC, summit that starts Friday in Venezuela's Capital.

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

## Chavez touts new Latin America, Caribbean bloc

**IAN JAMES**

**Associated Press**

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)**

— What if they threw a giant party for the Americas and didn't invite the United States or Canada? That's what Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is doing with a two-day, 33-nation summit starting Friday, welcoming nations from Brazil to Jamaica in what he hopes will be a grand alliance to counter U.S. influence.

Many presidents have less sweeping goals in mind, seeing the new Community of Latin American and Caribbean States mainly as a forum for resolving regional conflicts, building closer ties and promoting economic development.

Yet the bloc's creation is also a sign that for many countries, the United States is no longer seen as an essential diplomatic player in regional affairs.

"The U.S. has lost an awful lot of space in the region, even though it's still the most important, the most powerful country in the region," said Eduardo Gamarra, a Latin American politics professor at Florida International Univer-

sity in Miami. Still, he said, it's unclear whether the region's governments are truly committed to forming a close alliance that brings together Latin America in ways that offset U.S. power. Chavez, who sells the largest share of Venezuela's oil to the United States, is urging the region to assert its independence, noting it was once a dream of 19th century independence hero Simon Bolivar to unify Latin American nations. Lampposts in Caracas are now festooned with banners picturing independence leaders ranging from Bolivar to Cuba's Jose Marti, along with the slogan "the path of our Liberators."

At least publicly, though, only some of Chavez's closest allies seem to share his interests in creating alternatives to established bodies such as the Washington-based Organization of American States, which includes every nation in the Americas except Cuba among its active members. Nor are the region's leaders likely to agree with Chavez in creating organizations to replace those he strongly

criticizes, such as the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the World Bank. The new group, known by its Spanish initials CELAC, will add one more acronym to a region with plenty of smaller organizations, including Unasur, Mercosur and the Caribbean Community. Some of Chavez's most fervent support comes from within the nine-nation, socialist-leaning Bolivarian Alternative bloc known as ALBA, which he has promoted with allies including Cuba and Nicaragua.

"This isn't aimed at becoming a new economic integration bloc nor replacing the OAS," said Maria Teresa Romero, an international studies professor at the Central University of Venezuela.

"President Chavez and others in the ALBA are using the CELAC for their political and propagandistic aims," Romero said.

For Chavez, she said, it's a chance to show the outside world and Venezuelans "that he still has great international leadership" even though his influence has slipped in the past several years. □



# Texas approved Craigslist suspect jail release

**ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS  
THOMAS J. SHEERAN  
Associated Press**

**AKRON, Ohio (AP)** — A parolee now linked to a deadly Craigslist robbery scheme was in an Ohio jail and poised to stay there earlier this year, but he was released because Texas officials allowed him to be freed, according to court records and an Ohio sheriff's office.

Richard Beasley was released in July on a judge's order. He now is linked to an autumn plot in which, authorities say, someone tried to lure robbery victims by posting a bogus ad touting a cattle farm job in southeast Ohio.

Authorities have linked two bodies and the shooting of a man who survived to the scheme, which targeted single, out-of-work men in their late 40s or early 50s. The investigators heading up the Craigslist inquiry also found a third body but have yet to link it to the case.

When Beasley was arrested June 24 on a drug-dealing charge in Ohio, authorities

in Texas at first asked that he be held for violating parole on a burglary conviction in that state.

Ohio officials said Beasley would have remained behind bars but that Texas officials decided he could be freed at least until the Ohio case was resolved.

Jason Clark, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, disputed Ohio officials' account, saying the state never waived its hold on Beasley.

But Bill Holland, a spokesman for the Summit County, Ohio, sheriff, said Thursday that Texas Parole Authority

officials said they wanted to wait until the outcome of the Akron drug case, "because if he was found not guilty, then there would be no parole violation."

Akron Municipal Court Judge James Murphy ordered Beasley's release on July 12. "Texas authorities are only interested in extradition if there is a conviction in Ohio," he wrote.

On Thursday, Beasley was wheeled into court in Akron on the drug charge, which alleges he was illegally dealing prescription painkillers in November 2010. Beasley's head bobbed rhythmically, and he later

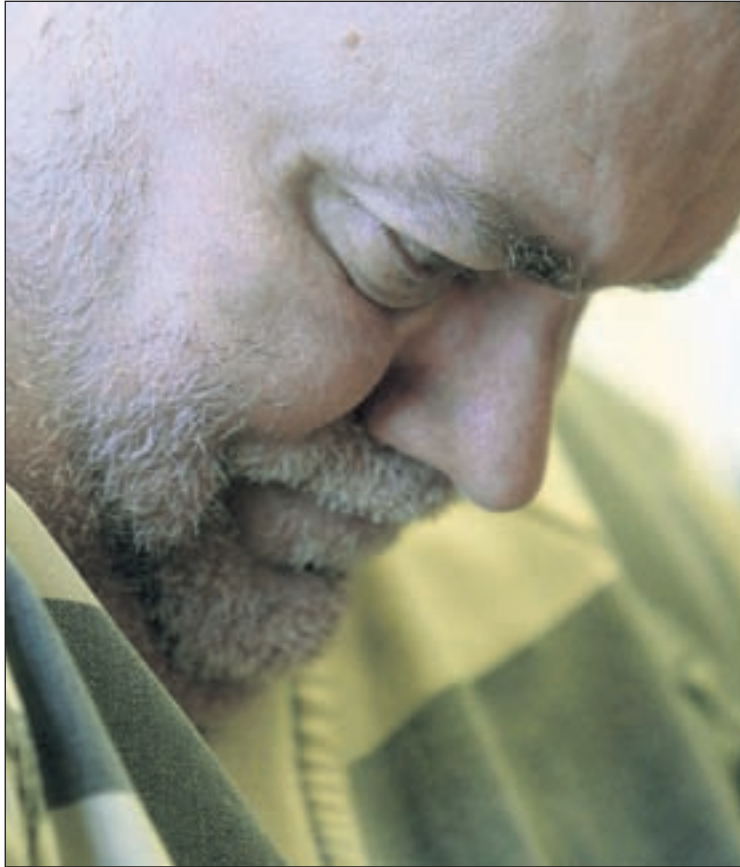
ignored questions about the mounting body count and his relationship with a teen murder suspect.

Beasley, unshaved and dressed in a white and gray striped jail outfit, didn't speak and kept his head down as Summit County Common Pleas Judge Tammy O'Brien revoked his bond on the drug-trafficking charge.

The legal problems faced by Beasley, a 52-year-old self-styled chaplain and youth mentor, are mounting: His attorney said a prostitution case involving Beasley and a 17-year-old boy would be upgraded with a racketeering charge Friday.

The drug and prostitution cases in Akron are unrelated to a widening Craigslist homicide investigation.

In that case, 16-year-old Brogan Rafferty, of nearby Stow, faces juvenile charges of aggravated murder, complicity to aggravated murder, attempted murder and complicity to attempted murder in the death of one man and the shooting of another. □



**Richard J. Beasley appears in Summit County Common Pleas Court on drug charges Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011, in Akron, Ohio. Beasley is a suspect in the deadly Craigslist robbery scheme. Authorities have linked two bodies and the shooting of a man who survived to the Craigslist scheme, which targeted single, out-of-work men in their late 40s or early 50s.**

(AP Photo/Tony Dejak)

## Student sparks debate with Confederate flag

**SUSANNE M. SCHAFER  
Associated Press**

**COLUMBIA, South Carolina (AP)** — A black U.S. college student who drew complaints for displaying a Confederate flag in his dorm room window said he sees the banner as a symbol of pride and not racism.

Byron Thomas, 19, said university officials asked him in late November to take the down the banner associated with pro-slavery secessionist forces during the 1861-1865 U.S. Civil War after students and parents complained. They have since told him he can put it back up.

"When I look at this flag, I don't see racism. I see respect, Southern pride," he said. "This flag was seen as a communication symbol" during the Civil War, he said.

That history is debatable. The orange flag with a blue St. Andrew's Cross

and white stars is a relatively modern rectangular vairant on banners carried into battle by the secessionists, also resembling a rebel naval jack. The variant banner, confused by many with the markedly different Confederate national flag, was adopted as a symbol of recumbant pride generations after the South surrendered and slavery was abolished. Controversy has surrounded the use of the symbol since — some associating it with regional pride and others a legacy of the enslavement of Africans and their descendants and the ensuing century of often violent racial segregation. Several states incorporated its design into their official flags; South Carolina raised it over its state capitol for the war's 1961 centennial, where it continued to fly until widening opposition to the symbol brought it back down in 2000, nearly 40

years later.

Byron, a student at the University of South Carolina Beaufort, took the flag down at the university's request, but he said he's considering putting it back up after the officials relented. Thomas has drawn nearly 70,000 views since he posted a video online in which he acknowledges: "I know it's kind of weird because I'm black."

In a telephone interview Thursday, Thomas said a class research project made him come to the belief that the flag's real meaning has been hijacked. He said he wants people to thoughtfully consider issues of race and not just knee-jerk reactions to such symbols.

The freshman from North Augusta said his generation can eliminate the flag's negative power by adopting the banner as a symbol of Southern pride. □

**The Blue Lobster** RESTAURANT  
INTERNATIONAL CUISINE & LOBSTER HOUSE

**IS NOW OPEN FOR DINNER  
FROM 5PM TILL 10PM  
COME AND ENJOY A GREAT VARIATION  
OF LOBSTER DISHES  
(OVER 15 OF THEM)  
INTERNATIONAL CUISINE,  
AT IT'S BEST.  
COZY, RELAXING AND ROMANTIC  
ATMOSPHERE  
RESERVATION RECOMMENDED**

**PHONE 586-3843  
LOCATED AT PALM BEACH 164A  
NEXT TO TONY'S TATTOO**

**WE ARE CLOSED ON SUNDAYS**



# Senate backs military custody of terror suspects

**DONNA CASSATA**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Democratic-controlled Senate moved methodically Thursday to complete a massive defense bill that would deny suspected terrorists, even U.S. citizens seized within the nation's borders, the right to trial and subject them to indefinite detention.

The Senate rejected an effort by Intelligence Committee Chairman Dianne Feinstein to limit a military custody requirement for suspects to those captured outside the United States. The vote was 55-45. Feinstein, a Democrat, said her goal was to ensure "the military won't be roaming our streets looking for suspected terrorists."

The issue divided Democrats with nine senators, many facing re-election

next year, breaking with the leadership and Obama administration to vote against the amendment. Republicans held firm, with only three backing Feinstein's effort. The administration has threatened to veto the measure. Overall, the deficit-driven bill would authorize \$662 billion for military personnel, weapons systems, national security programs in the Energy Department and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in the fiscal year that began Oct. 1. Reflecting a period of austerity and a winding down of decade-old conflicts, the bill is \$27 billion less than what President Barack Obama requested and \$43 billion less than what Congress gave the Pentagon this year.

The Senate pushed to finish the bill by day's end. Its version must be reconciled



**The Senate rejected an effort by Intelligence Committee Chairman Dianne Feinstein (above) today to limit a military custody requirement for suspects to those captured outside the United States. The vote was 55-45. Feinstein, a Democrat, said her goal was to ensure "the military won't be roaming our streets looking for suspected terrorists."**

with a House-passed measure in the final weeks of the congressional session.

In an escalating fight with the White House, the bill would ramp up the role of the military in handling terror suspects. The bill's language challenges citizens' rights under the U.S. Constitution, tests the boundaries of executive and legislative branch authority and sets up a showdown with the Democratic commander in chief. It reflects the politically charged dispute over

whether to treat suspected terrorists as prisoners of war or criminals. The administration insists that the military, law enforcement and intelligence agents need flexibility in prosecuting the war on terror after they've succeeded in killing al-Qaida's Osama bin Laden and Anwar al-Awlaki. In its veto threat, the White House said it cannot accept any legislation that "challenges or constrains the president's authorities to collect intelligence, incapacitate dan-

gerous terrorists and protect the nation." Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and FBI Director Robert Mueller have opposed the provisions. Republicans counter that their efforts are necessary to respond to an evolving, post-Sept. 11 threat, and that Obama has failed to produce a consistent policy on handling terror suspects. The bill would require military custody of a suspect deemed to be a member of al-Qaida or its affiliates and involved in plotting or committing attacks on the United States. American citizens would be exempt. The bill does allow the executive branch to waive the authority based on national security and hold a suspect in civilian custody. The legislation also would give the government the authority to have the military hold an individual suspected of terrorism indefinitely, without a trial. That provision had no exception for a U.S. citizen. Earlier this week, the Senate resoundingly rejected an effort to strip the detainee provisions from the defense bill and instead hold hearings on the issue. □

## Hospital says evangelist Graham has pneumonia



**Evangelist Billy Graham, 92, is interviewed at the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association headquarters in Charlotte, N.C. Graham has been diagnosed with pneumonia but remains in good spirits at a North Carolina Hospital.**

(AP Photo/Nell Redmond, File)

**ASHEVILLE, North Carolina (AP)** — The Rev. Billy Graham has been diagnosed with pneumonia but remains in good spirits at a North Carolina Hospital.

Dr. Mark Hellreich, a pulmonologist treating Graham at Mission Hospitals in Asheville, said Thursday that the 93-year-old evangelist is responding well to antibiotic treatment and is in stable condition.

Graham was visited Thursday by his pastor, the Rev. Don Wilton, who prayed with him and read from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

Graham is alert and talking with hospital workers, and has also been visited by his daughter, Gigi.

In May, Graham spent five days in the hospital during a bout with pneumonia.

Graham rarely appears in public, but recently published his 30th book, in which he reflects on aging and mortality. □

## Panetta reaps reward for bin Laden takedown

**LOLITA C. BALDOR**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — It was just a tiny sip, but Defense Secretary Leon Panetta finally was able to taste the fruits of his promised reward for getting terrorist leader Osama bin Laden.

During a recent Panetta dinner party, California restaurateur Ted Balestreri made good on his bet to open a rare, \$10,000 bottle of 1870 Chateau Lafite Rothschild to honor the raid by U.S. special forces that killed bin Laden in Pakistan. Last year at Balestreri's annual New Year's Eve party, he told Panetta he would uncork the bottle "if Leon catches Osama bin Laden."



**Canadian Defense Minister Peter MacKay (left) and United States Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta speak during the opening news conference of the 2011 Halifax International Security Forum in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada on Friday Nov. 18, 2011.**

(AP Photo/The Canadian Press, Mike Dembeck)

In May, Panetta directed the raid that killed bin Laden. Panetta chose to share his reward with several doz-

en friends. Each got to sip the wine in a souvenir CIA shot glass that they took home. □



**BUSHIRI**  
KARTING SPEEDWAY  
HIGH SPEED RENTAL KARTS  
**\$15 Arrive & Drive**  
For Events, Championship Packages or Reservations  
Call us at: **583-5278**  
Experience the Thrill of **OUTDOOR KARTING** in Aruba TODAY!



**OPEN DAILY!**  
10:00AM - 6:30PM

# Major banks face new foreclosure lawsuit

**GRETCHEN MORGENSON**  
© 2011 New York Times

Citing extensive abuses of troubled borrowers across Massachusetts, the state's attorney general sued the nation's five largest mortgage lenders Thursday, seeking relief for consumers hurt by what she called unfair and deceptive business practices.

In addition to creating a new and significant legal headache for the banks named in the suit — Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, Wells Fargo and GMAC Mortgage — the Massachusetts action diminishes the likelihood of a comprehensive settlement between the banks and federal and state officials to resolve foreclosure improprieties.

Also named as a defendant in the Massachusetts suit was the electronic mortgage registry known as MERS, an entity set up by lenders to speed property transfers by circumventing local land recording officials.

The attorney general, Martha Coakley, and her investigators contend that the banks improperly fore-



**Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley, center, speaks to reporters at a news conference in Boston, Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011, about the lawsuit in which Massachusetts is suing five major banks including Bank of America Corp. and JPMorgan Chase & Co. over deceptive foreclosure practices. Also seen are, from left, Deputy Chief of the Public Protection and Advocacy Bureau Stephanie Kahn, Chief of the the Public Protection and Advocacy Bureau, Christopher Barry-Smith, Deputy AG Kevin Conroy, and Assistant AG John Stephan.**

(AP Photo/Josh Reynolds)

closed on troubled borrowers by relying on fraudulent legal documentation or by failing to provide homeowners with loan modifications after promising to do so. The suit also contends that the banks' use of MERS corrupted the state's public land recording system by not registering legal transfers properly.

"There is no question that

the deceptive and unlawful conduct by Wall Street and the large banks played a central role in this crisis through predatory lending and securitization of those loans," Coakley said at a news conference announcing the lawsuit. "The banks may think they are too big to fail or too big to care about the impact of their actions, but we be-

lieve they are not too big to have to obey the law." Coakley has been among the most aggressive state regulators in her pursuit of financial institutions involved in the credit crisis. In addition to her inquiry into foreclosure improprieties in Massachusetts, she has also conducted far-reaching investigations into predatory lending and

securitization abuses. Since 2009, Coakley has extracted more than \$600 million in restitution and penalties from lawsuits against mortgage originators like Option One and Fremont Investment and Loan and Wall Street firms like Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley, which bundled loans into mortgage securities. □

## Broker for would-be Times Square bomber sentenced

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A man unwittingly swept up in a failed terror plot to bomb Times Square last year was sentenced Thursday to three years' probation.

Mohammad Younis had pleaded guilty to charges he arranged an illegal transfer of \$7,000 to Faisal Shazad — money Shazad claimed that the Pakistani Taliban provided to fund his one-man strike against New York City.

Younis and his brother in Pakistan were part of underground money transfer

system known as hawala, authorities said. When the Times Square attack was in the planning stages, Younis' brother sent him the cash that he delivered to Shazad at a Long Island railroad station.

Prosecutors in federal court in Manhattan acknowledged that Younis never knew about Shazad's plot. But they argued that a potential sentence of up to six months would be appropriate to deter money transmissions that could fund terrorism.

Attorneys for the Pakistan-born Younis asked for leniency, describing him as a working-class immigrant who posed no danger.

"I'm really sorry," Younis told the judge before he was sentenced. "It will not happen ever, ever again." Shazad is serving a life sentence after admitting he built a car bomb he left in Times Square to avenge U.S. military intervention in Muslim countries. The bomb malfunctioned but still spread fear throughout the city. □

## We are Celebrating our 25th Anniversary with a 4-course Dinner Special!

### Appetizer

- Fish Soup
- Onion Soup
- Conch Fritters
- Escargot
- Salad

### Entrée

- **Fresh Catch of the Day** prepared by our local chef just the way you like it.
- **Jumbo Shrimp** from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine.
- **Filet Mignon\*** 8 oz. US Tenderloin
- **Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast**

### Dessert

- Chocolate or Banana Cake
- Ice Cream
- Coffee / Tea

**4-course dinner**  
**\$25.95**  
per person

This special cannot be used with any other promotions, vouchers or certificates.



Restaurant  
**Driftwood**  
Authentic Aruban Seafood

25th ANNIVERSARY

Open daily from 5:00pm - 10:30pm (closed on Tuesdays)  
For reservations call: **583-2515** - Klipstraat 12, Downtown.  
www.driftwoodaruba.com • driftwood@setarnet.aw



Renaissance Market Place  
☎ 583-6108

Paseo Herencia Mall  
☎ 586-2113

Express, Sta. Cruz  
☎ 585-8536

Personalized Service Always close to you!

Maggy's  
Full Service Salons  
Your Beauty Emporium Since 1955

ALFAPARF  
MILANO

KÉRASTASE  
PARIS

PHYTO  
L'ÉCOLE DES CHEVEUX

O·P·I

# For Cain, US presidential campaign all but over

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Herman Cain is still campaigning for U.S. president. But by most measures, allegations of sexual harassment and a 13-year extramarital affair have all but ended the White House bid by the former pizza company executive.

His standing in polls, where he was battling for the lead just weeks ago, is falling. Supporters are wavering, if not fleeing. Fundraising is suffering.

And, these days, the former pizza company executive is more the butt of late-night TV jokes than a serious candidate.

"His chance at winning the presidency are effectively zero," said Dave Welch, a Republican strategist.

The main beneficiary of Cain's fall has been former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Newt Gingrich, who has risen steadily in polls nationally and in early voting states. Gingrich has emerged as the main challenger to fellow front-runner Mitt Romney in the Republican race to take on President Barack Obama next year.

Romney aimed for the Republican base Thursday by meeting with former President George H. W. Bush in



Republican presidential candidate, Herman Cain leaves the Manchester Union Leader newspaper after meeting with the editorial board, Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011, in Manchester, N.H.

(AP Photo/Jim Cole)

Texas.

For Cain, Ginger White's allegation of an affair overshadowed another day of campaigning. He told the New Hampshire Union Leader newspaper that his wife, Gloria, did not know he was providing the 46-year-old businesswoman with money for "month-to-month bills and expenses."

Cain said his wife didn't know of what he called a friendship with White until she said publicly that she had a 13-year affair with Cain that ended about eight months ago.

Cain has said he is re-evaluating whether to remain in the race and will only make that decision after speak-

ing face-to-face with his wife of 42 years, most likely on Friday.

Only four weeks remain before the Jan. 3 Iowa caucuses kick off the nominating fight.

Romney is counting on his superior campaign organization, which is designed to keep him in the race for the long haul by winning significant numbers of key convention delegates, even if he loses in a particular state.

Obama's aides privately say they see Romney as the Republican most likely to win the party's nomination. Cain's campaign already has been rocked by allegations by other women of sexual harassment. □

## Ex-Officer gets 5 years for shootings cover-up

**MICHAEL KUNZELMAN**  
Associated Press

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — A former police officer has been sentenced to the maximum of five years in prison for helping cover up deadly shootings of unarmed residents on a New Orleans bridge after Hurricane Katrina.

U.S. District Judge Eldon Fallon said Thursday that the five-year cap on Robert Barrios' sentence for pleading guilty to a conspiracy charge was a sufficient reward for his cooperation.

The 30-year-old Barrios is one of five former officers who pleaded guilty to participating in a cover-up

to make it appear police were justified in shooting six people — killing two — on the Danziger Bridge days after the 2005 storm hit.

Five other current or former officers who were convicted in August of civil rights violations stemming from the shootings are scheduled to be sentenced Feb. 14. □

## Lawsuit:

# Hershey school rejects HIV-positive student

**PETER JACKSON**  
Associated Press

**HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania (AP)** — A private boarding school connected with the Hershey chocolate company says it was trying to protect other students when it denied admission to a Philadelphia-area teenager because he is HIV-positive.

The AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania filed a lawsuit on behalf of the unidentified boy in U.S. District Court in Philadelphia on Wednesday, claiming the Milton Hershey School for disadvantaged students violated the Americans with Disabilities Act.

School officials acknowledged that the 13-year-old boy was denied admission because of his medical condition. They said they believed it was necessary to protect the health and safety of the 1,850 others enrolled in the residential institution, which serves children in pre-kindergarten to 12th grade and where students live in homes with 10 to 12 others.

"In order to protect our children in this unique environment, we cannot accommodate the needs of students with chronic communicable diseases that pose a direct threat to the health and safety of others," the school said in a statement Wednesday.

Such restrictions are not limited to HIV, school spokeswoman Connie McNamara said Thursday.

Attorney Ronda Goldfein says her client requires no special accommodations. He is an honor-roll student and athlete who controls his HIV with medication that does not affect his school schedule, she said.

"This young man is a motivated, intelligent kid who poses no health risk to other students but is being denied an educational opportunity because of ignorance and fear about HIV and AIDS," Goldfein said.

School officials said they were preparing to seek a declaratory judgment from the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania on legal issues surrounding the case when the AIDS Law Project "took the adversarial action of filing a lawsuit."

Goldfein said Thursday she was not aware that the school was contemplating such a court filing, but said action is needed because one-third of the school year is already over. "The sooner we can get this matter resolved and get my student into an appropriate academic setting, the better," she said.

Congress amended the Americans with Disabilities Act in 2008 to reaffirm that HIV is a qualified disability entitled to accommodation by public and private schools, a lawyer at the New York City-based Center for HIV Law and Policy said.

Beirne Roose-Snyder, the group's managing attorney, said discrimination against people with HIV remains "rampant," even though the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said for years that the virus is not transmitted through casual contact. Fewer cases are going to trial, she said. □





Actors John C. Reilly, left, and Will Ferrell pose backstage at MTV Studio's in Times Square for MTV's "Total Request Live" show in New York. Reilly and Ferrell will star in "Tim and Eric's Billion Dollar Movie," the story of two filmmakers who get the most colossal budget ever, only to have it all go wrong. The film will showcase at Sundance Film Festival in January.

(AP Photo/Peter Kramer, file)

## Ferrell's 'Billion Dollar Movie' heads to Sundance

DAVID GERMAIN

AP Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Here's a dream come true for cash-strapped filmmakers: A billion-dollar movie budget. Next month's Sundance Film Festival, the top showcase for independent cinema, includes the comedy "Tim and Eric's Billion Dollar Movie." It's the story of two filmmakers who get the most colossal budget ever, only to have it all go wrong. The movie, one of dozens announced Thursday by Robert Redford's Sundance festival, features Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly, Zach Galifianakis. Its writer-directors are Tim Heidecker and Eric Wareheim, a comedy duo whose credits include the TV series "Tim and Eric Awesome Show, Great Job!" "Billion Dollar Movie" is part of the festival's popular midnight section of horror, over-the-top comedy and other high-

energy films. Among other midnight titles are director Jon Wright's horror comedy "Grabbers," starring Richard Coyle and Ruth Bradley in the tale of villagers in an Irish fishing town who learn that staying drunk might be their only protection against blood-sucking sea monsters. They also will include Nicholas McCarthy's "The Pact," with Casper Van Dien and Caity Lotz in the story of a woman whose childhood home is beset by a mysterious presence after her mother's death; "Black Rock," with director Katie Aselton, Lake Bell and Kate Bosworth in a thriller about three friends fighting for survival during a weekend getaway; and Dylan Southern and Joe Swanberg's "Shut Up and Play the Hits," a documentary following LCD Soundsystem frontman James Murphy for two days amid the band's farewell concert in April. □



In this film image released by Sundance Film Festival, Gina Rodriguez is shown in a scene from "Filly Brown." The film will be competing at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival.

(AP Photo/Sundance Film Festival, John Castillo)

# Strong winds down trees and power lines in West

ROBERT JABLON

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Some of the worst winds in years blasted through California overnight, sweeping through canyons, gusting up to 97 mph (156 kph), and toppling trees and trucks while knocking out power to hundreds of thousands of people.

High winds were also reported elsewhere throughout the West, including 100 mph (160 kph) gusts that forced a Utah town to close schools.

"What's driving this is a large, cold low-pressure system that's currently centered over Needles, California. The strong winds are wrapping around it," weather service forecaster Andrew Rorke said. The system will sit and spin counter-clockwise over the area for the next day, although "it won't be quite as hellacious" as Wednesday night, Rorke said.

The National Weather Service issued high wind warn-



Binder Lopez rides his bike under a fallen traffic signal caused by high Santa Ana winds at the corner of Lake Avenue and Claremont Street, Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011, in Pasadena, Calif. Some of the fiercest winds in years slam California and move across the West, with gusts near 100 mph flipping trees and trucks, snarling air traffic and knocking out power to hundreds of thousands.

(AP Photo/Bret Hartman)

ings and advisories for parts of California, Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, Arizona and New Mexico. The front will eventually bring blustery weather to Oklahoma, Missouri and Indiana, he said. An estimated 300,000 customers in Southern Califor-

nia were without electricity Thursday morning.

"It seems like there's been extensive damage across the county," based on preliminary reports, said Bob Spencer, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. □

## TSA investigates Honolulu airport allegations: report

JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER

Associated Press

**HONOLULU (AP)** — The Transportation Security Administration is investigating allegations that screeners at Honolulu International Airport have targeted Mexican travelers for extra screening.

The TSA said in a statement Thursday that it's investigating the behavior detection program at the airport and providing refresher training to ensure the program is focused on identifying suspicious behavior.

The statement was in response to a recent letter from U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson, a ranking member of the House Committee on Homeland Security. His Nov. 22 letter said a broadcast report last month raised allegations of profiling, underscoring



A TSA Agent screens a passenger before her flight. The Transportation Security Administration is investigating allegations that screeners at Honolulu International Airport have targeted Mexican travelers for extra screening.

his concerns about the program known as Screening of Passengers by Observation Technique, or SPOT. Thompson has given the

TSA until Dec. 16 to provide information including the agency's internal report on Honolulu's SPOT program. □



 <p><b>Tourist FleaMarket</b> Saturdays and Sundays OPEN 8AM - 6PM <b>CALL BETO 592-2424</b></p>	<p><b>TOURIST GO FLEA MARKET</b> L.G. Smith Blvd. Apposite Container Harbor - Orange Flags Aruba Arts • Craft • Souvenirs • Watches • Sun Glasses • Silver • Cigars • Sweets • Delfts Blue • More than 100.000 articles! <b>TELL AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS! TAXIS, BUS TOURS AND EASY CONSTANT PUBLIC BUS TRANSPORTATION, STAY A FEW HOURS!</b> <b>B.B.Q.</b> ANYTHING TO SELL OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL BETO → Be SMART! do what locals do! Best shopping - Lowest prices ever!</p>	 <p><b>RENT-A-TENT</b> FOR ALL EVENT AT YOUR PLACE ALL SIZES <b>592-2424</b></p>
--	---	---



Panamanian military strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega talks to reporters in Panama City. A Paris appeals court rules Wednesday Nov. 23, 2011, whether to grant an extradition request from Panama, which plans to try the elderly ex-military strongman in the latest phase of his complex legal odyssey.

(AP Photo, file)

## Ex-Panamanian dictator to be extradited in weeks

JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

**PARIS (AP)** — Former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega will be extradited to his homeland in the next few weeks, the French Justice Ministry said Thursday. France and Panama have been working out the details of the extradition, Justice Ministry spokesman Bruno Badre told The Associated Press by telephone. A French court ruled on Nov. 23 that Noriega can be handed over to serve time for past crimes, more than 20 years after being ousted and arrested in a U.S. invasion.

Badre said "the judicial conditions have now been filled" for extradition and "this will occur in the next few weeks."

The elderly former strongman has been behind bars in Florida, on drug charges, and in France, for money laundering. Panama wants Noriega returned to serve prison terms handed down after he was convicted in absentia for embezzlement, corruption and murder.

The court decision came after months of legal procedures.

Friends and foes alike feared that Noriega might

die in a French prison — notably Panamanians who fought against human rights abuses during his 1983-1989 regime.

Noriega, a one-time CIA asset, turned into an embarrassment for the U.S. after he sided up to Colombia's Medellin drug cartel and turned to crime.

In Panama, he is accused of murdering opponents including Moises Giroldi, a military commander who led a failed rebellion two months before the U.S. invasion, and Hugo Spadafora, whose decapitated body was found on the border with Costa Rica in 1985. □

## Sarkozy calls for treaty to save euro

PAN PYLAS

RAF CASERT

Associated Press

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — Germany and France will push for a broad treaty "refounding and rethinking the organization of Europe," French President Nicolas Sarkozy declared Thursday.

He said that without some new "convergence" among European countries, the continent's crushing debt could destroy the euro.

Sarkozy made the statements in the southern French port city of Toulon as he and German Chancellor Angela Merkel prepare to meet in Paris on Monday to try to lift Europe out of the debt crisis ahead of a major EU summit next week. Earlier Thursday, the head of the European Central Bank hinted that the ECB now may be willing to take bolder actions to address the crisis that has rocked the continent.

"There can be no common currency without econom-

ic convergence, without which the euro will be too strong for some, too weak for others, and the eurozone will break up," the French president said before several thousand sympathizers of his conservative party.

On Friday, Merkel will address Germany's parliament about Europe's financial crisis and the EU summit on Dec. 9, which is expected to focus on how to make the eurozone more unified. Merkel has acknowledged the need for treaty changes that impose stricter financial controls on eurozone countries to prevent them from taking on too much debt.

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble told reporters in Berlin on Thursday there is now "a crisis of confidence" in the eurozone and that tough and credible new rules are needed to regain market confidence. Germany has said EU treaty amendments are required to do that.

Sarkozy spoke a day after the European Central Bank, the Federal Reserve and the central banks of Canada, Japan and Switzerland moved together to make it easier for commercial banks to borrow American dollars. It was a move intended to calm financial markets, which had grown increasingly worried about European debt.

Seventeen countries share the euro, and those countries plus 10 more make up the European Union. All 27 would have to approve a change in the Maastricht Treaty, which created the euro in 1999. Sarkozy said the treaty "has revealed itself to be imperfect."

A disorderly breakup of the euro would devastate the world economy, analysts predict.

It could cause banks to grow fearful and stop lending money to each other, which could trigger a replay of the stock market crash during the last world financial crisis, in 2008. □



**WACKY WAHOO'S**  
PALM BEACH #33-A WWW.WACKYWAHOOS.COM  
**STEAK. SEAFOOD. B.B.Q. & FUN!**

Ex-Hadicurari BBQ & Grill with the same owner's.  
We do our own daily fishing so we serve the freshest seafood on the Island.

**Very reasonable price, exciting menu and NO SERVICE CHARGE**  
Dinner from 5:30 - 10:00  
Monday - Saturday



**FRESH CATCH & SEAFOOD**  
We are located close to the High-rise hotel's at walking distance.  
Call us for Catering Service and Private Party's etc.  
RESERVATION SUGGESTED  
**TEL: 586-7333**



# Party to lead Guyana's first minority Gov't

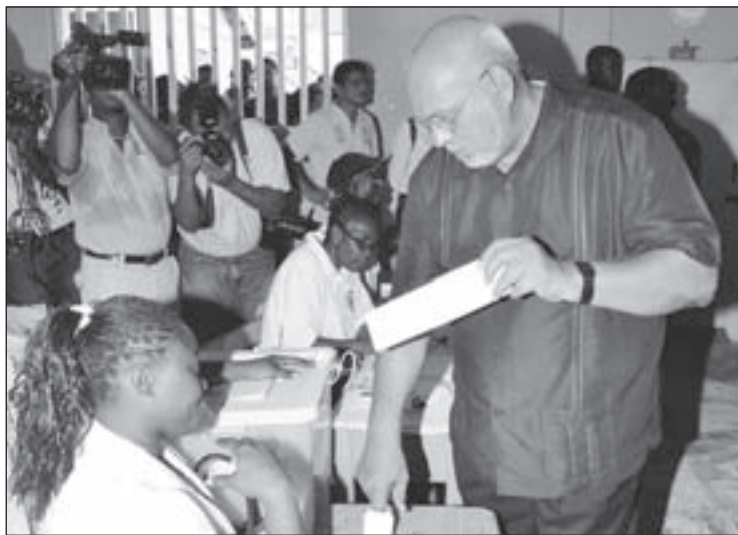
BERT WILKINSON

Associated Press

GEORGETOWN, Guyana

(AP) — Guyana's ruling party will head a minority government that will not control the South American country's parliament, election officials announced Thursday after three days of counting paper ballots. Chief Elections Officer Go-cool Boodhoo announced that the East Indian-dominated People's Progressive Party led by 61-year-old economist Donald Ramotar won the most seats in Monday's elections but fell short of an absolute majority. The result is likely to mean turbulent political times for Guyana since opposition parties could control the 65-seat parliament if they are able to work together. Ramotar's party won 32

seats, four less than it had in the last parliament. The opposition Partnership For National Unity has 26 seats, a gain of four, and the Alliance For Change holds seven, a gain of two. It is the first minority government since Guyana achieved self-governance from Britain in 1953 and independence in 1966. Analysts said that will require political compromises in a country largely divided along ethnic lines, between people of Indian and African descent. The hung parliament "is the best thing to have happened to us as a nation as there are now checks to one race group dominating all the others," said Guyanese political analyst Christopher Ram. "It forces us to share power or could force good gov-



Donald Ramotar, presidential candidate of the ruling People's Progressive Party casts his ballot during presidential and parliamentary elections in Georgetown, Guyana.

(AP Photo)

ernance." During the campaign, the Partnership For National Unity coalition, led by retired army command-

er David Granger, accused the previous government of racial discrimination, allying with drug traffickers and

turning a blind eye to corruption.

After the results were announced Thursday, about 200 of the coalition's supporters marched from its headquarters toward the legislature chanting, "We want Granger."

Another group of opposition demonstrators blew horns as police in riot gear looked on. Opposition parties have alleged voting irregularities in various districts.

After the results were announced, Granger and Rupert Roopnarine, the Partnership For National Unity's candidate for prime minister, attended a meeting with officials of the People's Progressive Party and the Alliance for Change. □

## World Bank approves \$255 million plan for Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — The World Bank has set aside \$255 million for helping house Haitians, clean up neighborhoods and send thousands of children to school over the next year.

The money will go toward housing 22,500 people, many of whom have been living in tent camps that sprang up after the January 2010 earthquake. It will also help spruce up parks and repair roads in neighborhoods that are home for 75,000 people, pay for school tuition for 100,000 children and provide food for 75,000 youngsters.

The international agency's board of directors approved the plan Thursday. □

## THE CINEMAS

thecinemas.aw

Valid till Dec. 7

AT RENAISSANCE	AT PASEO HERENCIA
<b>ARTHUR CHRISTMAS</b> daily: 6:15 - 8:30 matinee: 1:15 - 3:45 late show: 11:00 NEW PG	<b>ARTHUR CHRISTMAS</b> daily: 4:15 - 6:45 - 9:15 matinee: 1:45 late show: 11:45 NEW PG
<b>THE DESCENDANTS</b> daily: 6:15 - 9:00 matinee: 12:45 - 3:30 late show: 11:45 R	<b>THE DESCENDANTS</b> daily: 5:45 - 8:30 matinee: 12:15 - 3:00 late show: 11:15 R
<b>THE TWILIGHT: BREAKING DAWN PART 1</b> daily: 6:00 - 8:45 matinee: 12:30 - 3:15 late show: 11:30 SP PG-13	<b>THE TWILIGHT: BREAKING DAWN PART 1</b> daily: 5:30 - 8:15 matinee: 12:00 - 2:45 late show: 11:00 SP PG-13
<b>HAPPY FEET 2</b> daily: 4:45 matinee: 12:00 - 2:30 late show: 11:30 SP PG	<b>HAPPY FEET</b> daily: 4:45 - 7:15 - 9:45 matinee: 12:00 - 2:30 late show: 12:15 SP PG
<b>HAPPY FEET 2 IN 2D</b> daily: 4:30 matinee: 2:00 late show: 11:30 SP PG	<b>HAPPY FEET IN 2D</b> daily: 1:00 - 3:30 matinee: 12:00 - 2:30 late show: 11:15 SP PG
<b>THE BIG YEAR</b> daily: 9:15 matinee: 11:45 late show: 11:45 PG	<b>THE RUM DAIRY</b> daily: 6:15 - 9:00 matinee: 12:45 - 3:30 late show: 12:00 PG-13
<b>JOHNNY ENGLISH REBORN</b> daily: 7:00 - 9:30 matinee: 12:00 late show: 12:00 SP PG	<b>TOWER HEIST</b> daily: 6:00 - 8:45 matinee: 11:15 late show: 11:15 PG-13
<b>IMMORTALS</b> daily: 7:00 - 9:30 matinee: 12:00 late show: 12:00 R	
<b>SINTERKLAAS EN HET RAADSEL VAN 5 DECEMBER</b> daily: 4:30 - 7:00 matinee: 12:00 - 2:15 late show: 12:00 G	

SP = subtítulos en Español

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
WWW.THECINEMAS.AW

Matinee: sat - sun | Late show: fri & sat

Stores are open Daily 10AM - 10PM  
Sunday 5PM - 10PM  
Restaurants are open for breakfast, lunch & dinner.

## The Holiday Celebration Continues!

Friday, December 2 starting at 6:00 PM

Musical Presentation by "Grupo di Betico" in front of Häagen Dazs

Live TV broadcast of "E Regalo"

Shopping bazaar with

Special Discounts!

FRIDAYS Happy Hour with Rincon Boyzz starting at 10 PM

**Stores and Restaurants:**

Action Tours Aruba	First Aid Store	It Moda & Stile	Little Switzerland	Rancho Daimari	The Humidor
Aruba Aloe	Fabulous	Iguana Cantina	Le Club	Remax Realty	The Mask
Aletronic.com	Guess	Imita	Maggy's	Scala	The Minimarket
Baci da Roma	Häagen Dazs	iZone Internet Cafe	Mario Hernandez	Sparkles	Tierra Del Sol
Café Moka's	Happy Island	Kapricho	Mia Boutique	Swatch	Time square
Carloha	Souvenirs	Kok Optica	Maute Grill	Starbucks	Tous
Converse	Happy Island	Kristies Jewelry	New Balance	Sky Lounge	Wenger
Cristalda	Beachwear	La Boutique	NoBush	Taste of Belgium	Zissles
Del Sol	Havana Nines	La Creperie de Paseo	Pandora Boutique	Taste of Heaven	
DIVI Resorts	Horse 'n Carriage	La Langosta	Pearl Gems	TGI Friday's	
El Cangrejo	Hunkemöller	Lacoste	Pony Rides	The Cinemas	


Parking available in Paseo Parking Garage at Afl. 1.00 per hour  
J.E. Yrausquin Blvd. 382-A (Situated across the Holiday Inn) Tel: 586-6533.  
Walking distance from the High Rise hotels.




# AT LAST, THE SEQUEL IS HERE!


Under a Blue Flag, the Much-Anticipated Sequel to Aruba's #1 Bestseller, An Island Away

**ON SALE NOW IN ARUBA AT MOST HOTEL GIFT SHOPS**



For more info, visit [DANIELPUTKOWSKI.com](http://DANIELPUTKOWSKI.com)

[amazon.com](http://amazon.com) | [amazonkindle](http://amazonkindle) |  Read Daniel Putkowski's novels on your iPad & iPhone  
APPS AVAILABLE AT [AMAZON.COM](http://AMAZON.COM)




THE SEQUEL TO ARUBA'S #1 BESTSELLER  
**Under a Blue Flag**  
DANIEL PUTKOWSKI

PRAISE FOR AN ISLAND AWAY

★★★★★

"INSIGHTFUL TALE. GREAT BEACH READ!"



**An Island Away**  
DANIEL PUTKOWSKI

## Egypt's Islamists poised to dominate parliament

**BEN HUBBARD**

**Associated Press**

**CAIRO (AP)** — Islamists appear to have taken a strong majority of seats in the first round of Egypt's first parliamentary vote since Hosni Mubarak's ouster, a trend that if confirmed would give religious parties a popular mandate in the struggle to win control from the ruling military and ultimately reshape a key U.S. ally. Final results, expected Friday, will be the clearest indication in decades of Egyptians' true political views and give the long-banned Muslim Brotherhood a major role in the country's first freely elected parliament. An Islamist majority could also herald a greater role for conservative Islam in Egyptian social life and shifts in foreign policy, especially toward Israel and the Palestinians.

The showing in Egypt — long considered a linchpin of regional stability — would be the clearest signal yet that parties and candidates connected to political Islam will emerge as the main beneficiaries of this year's Arab Spring uprisings. Tunisia and Morocco have both elected Islamist majorities to parliament, and while Libya has yet to announce dates for its first elections, Islamist groups have emerged as a strong force there since rebels overthrew Moammar Gadhafi in August. They also play a strong opposition role in Yemen. Judges overseeing the Egyptian vote count said Thursday that near-complete results show the Muslim Brotherhood, the country's largest and best organized political group, could take as many as 45 percent



Partial results show the Muslim Brotherhood emerging as the biggest winner in Egypt's landmark parliamentary elections, and leaders of the once-banned Islamic group demanded to form the next government, setting the stage for a possible confrontation with the ruling military. The writing on the statue reads "The statue of Umm Kulthum, Dec. 11, 1898 - Feb. 1975, in the occasion of the 4th Cairo national holiday."

(AP Photo/Nasser Nasser)

of the contested seats.

In addition to the Muslim Brotherhood wins, parties backed by ultraconservative Salafist Muslims looked poised to take 20 percent, giving Islamist parties a striking majority in the first round of voting in key districts, including Cairo and Alexandria.

Similar results in the remaining rounds would give Islamist parties a majority in parliament, which many believe they will use to steer the long-secular U.S. ally in a more religiously conservative direction.

The Islamist victories came at the expense of a coalition of liberal parties called the Egyptian block, the group most closely linked to the youth activists who launched the anti-Mubarak uprising — and which is expected to win only about 20 percent of seats. □

# NEED CASH TODAY?

## PAWN OR SELL YOUR GOLD

14 kt = AWG 40!  
18 kt = AWG 50!  
24 kt = AWG 68!

## ALWAYS THE HIGHEST PRICE!



ORANJESTAD WERFSTRAAT 7 LOK. 12 TEL 588 4141 ☎ SAN NICOLAS B. V/D VEEN ZEPPENFELDSTRAAT 14 TEL 584 4141



# Measles is on the rise across Europe

MARIA CHENG  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — After years of decline, measles is on the rise in Europe, according to a new report released Thursday.

As of October, European health officials reported more than 26,000 measles cases this year and nine deaths. That's a threefold increase in cases from the same time period in 2007, said the World Health Organization.

France accounted for about 14,000 cases, mainly in children older than five and in young adults.

Other big outbreaks of the highly-contagious disease have been identified in Spain, Romania, Macedonia, and Uzbekistan. So far, measles has killed nine people in Europe and hospitalized thousands of others. The report was published Thursday by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"We are seeing a surge of cases much larger than we've seen in the past five or six years," said Rebecca Martin, immunization program manager for WHO's Europe office in Copenhagen. Measles cases had been dropping for years, but began to increase sharply in late 2009.

Martin said the epidemic was fueled mainly by low vaccination rates and noted about half the cases were in people older than 15. "Over the years, people who haven't been vaccinated are now giving the virus a big opportunity to spread," Martin said.

The report said overall vaccination rates in Europe were high, but still didn't meet the 95 percent target needed to stop outbreaks. Of the people who got measles, about half weren't vaccinated and the vaccination histories of many of the others was unknown.

More cases in Europe have also meant spillover elsewhere. □

# Italian unions uneasy over economic rescue plan

NICOLE WINFIELD  
Associated Press

**ROME (AP)** — The Italian government's financial rescue plan is yet to be finalized, but already labor unions are denouncing it and some politicians are suggesting they might not back all the anticipated harsh measures meant to save the country from bankruptcy.

Unions seem particularly galled that Premier Mario Monti, in his rush to reassure markets about Italy's ability to rein in its debt and spur growth, is doing away with the government's traditional negotiations with them over any change to labor regulations or pensions.

But in a bid to ease tensions, Monti's office late Thursday issued a statement that he will meet with various segments of society, including unions, the major industrial lobby and local governments, Sunday morning "with a goal of illustrating the guiding principals of the measures that will be adopted by the Cabinet on Monday."

Monti told reporters Wednesday in Brussels that



**A beggar walks past a bank in Rome, Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011. Italian Premier Mario Monti's financial rescue plan is yet to be finished, but that hasn't stopped unions from denouncing it and some politicians expressing doubts as to whether they can back the anticipated harsh measures to save Italy from bankruptcy. Monti told reporters Wednesday in Brussels that time constraints and the "extraordinary delicate situation" Italy is struggling through doesn't allow for "certain rituals that might be welcome by everyone, but perhaps aren't advantageous to the country." (AP Photo/Pier Paolo Cito)**

time constraints and the "extraordinary delicate situation" Italy is struggling through doesn't allow for "certain rituals that might be welcome by everyone, but perhaps aren't advantageous to the country."

In the past, such negotiations with unions have frequently blocked major overhauls of Italy's generous pension system.

Monti promised that his

Cabinet on Monday would approve a package of spending cuts to slash towering debt and structural reforms to spur growth. He called for a "collective sense of urgency and responsibility" among lawmakers to facilitate passage in Parliament.

The new premier is under tremendous pressure to rein in Italy's €1.9 trillion (\$2.6 trillion) debt load — 20

percent larger than its annual economic output. The country, which is the eurozone's third-largest economy, is considered to be too big to be bailed out.

An Italian default would be disastrous for the 17-member eurozone and reverberate throughout the global economy.

Susanna Camusso, head of Italy's largest labor confederation, the left-leaning Cgil, has demanded a meeting with the government before the Cabinet clears the new measures.

News reports suggest Monti's plan includes a proposal to add at least one year to the 40 years now required in social security tax contributions before a worker is entitled to retire.

"The government must know that 40 is the magic, untouchable number," Camusso said.

The center-left Democratic Party is also skeptical about what might be proposed, arguing that flexibility must be built into the system to account for different types of labor and the age at which someone started working. □



Located at the Westin Resort Aruba.



Bring this ad and receive **20% discount** on your entire meal at PAGO PAGO Restaurant

Call for reservation 586 4466

Valid until December 31<sup>st</sup> 2011 and not valid with any other promotions.

**THE WESTIN**  
RESORT & CASINO  
ARUBA



# Has US learned the lesson of Enron 10 years later?

**BERNARD CONDON**

**AP Business Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — From humble origins as a natural gas distributor, Enron became a trading operation with the Midas touch. It made bets on oil, water, Internet traffic, even the weather. Wall Street's brightest worked there. Its stock tripled in two years. Virtually no one knew how it had made so much money.

Ten years ago Friday came the answer: It hadn't.

Enron's bankruptcy on Dec. 2, 2001, revealed a fraudulent illusion. Investors swore they would not be so profoundly deceived again. But it was only the beginning of a decade when so much in the economy was not as it seemed.

Can't-lose Wall Street guys turned out to be cheats. Home values did not go up forever. Promising signs of recovery after the Great Recession turned out to be nothing, and hard times endure.

The theme was shredded faith — that and debt, the more the better.

"We have faith in the big score," financial historian Charles Geisst says, trying to explain why Americans have, time and again, believed in what was too good to be true.

In the simple story of the past decade, a journey from corporate scandals to a housing bubble, then to a collapse and a frustratingly slow recovery, the villain is Wall Street and the victim Main Street. The reality is more complicated.

## THE BEGINNING

One reason people didn't know how Enron made money was that it was an amalgam of 3,000 private deals that came to light in its collapse, partnerships with names like Raptor, Condor and Chewbacca. Behind those obscure names, Enron shunted billions of dollars of debt off its books. Investors were safe as long as they didn't ask too many questions. The company borrowed from Wall Street banks, mutual funds and insurers, pledging its hot stock as collat-



**Lisa Feener, former Enron marketing services manager, holds a cigar with an Enron logo as she reminisces about the company at her home in Spring, Texas. The energy company collapsed 10 years ago.**

(AP Photo/Pat Sullivan)

eral.

The collapse wiped out \$11 billion in stock value, nearly 10 percent in the 401(k) retirement accounts of Enron employees.

A month later, an outspoken, Harley-riding CEO with an uncanny ability to pull profits out of a seemingly dull New Hampshire manufacturer appeared on BusinessWeek's list of top corporate managers. His name was Dennis Kozlowski. By the end of 2002, he was indicted for stealing \$150 million from shareholders, and his company, Tyco International, was bankrupt.

Several other heroes of capitalism toppled after him. Bernard Ebbers drove WorldCom into bankruptcy after misleading investors in his high-flying company in an \$11 billion accounting fraud. John Rigas, who turned a \$300 purchase into a cable TV empire, was convicted of fraud after prosecutors said he ran Adelphia Communications like a "personal piggy bank," including using \$26 million of company money to buy timberland next to his home to preserve his view.

Martha Stewart, who built her cooking and decorating business on an image



**An Enron keepsake sits in front of a company values statement at the home of former Enron marketing services manager Lisa Feener in Spring, Texas. The energy company collapsed 10 years ago.**

(AP Photo/Pat Sullivan)

of homespun goodness, faced a grilling from regulators that suggested a life more tawdry than tidy: She had dumped shares of a drug company on what appeared to be an illegal tip from her Merrill Lynch broker. She was convicted of lying, though never accused of insider trading. The amount the one-time billionaire saved by selling early was \$51,000.

It was a time of plummeting stocks, trashed retirement accounts, lost jobs and lost trust. One headline from 2002: "Scandals Shred In-

vestors' Faith."

Regulators cracked down, offering hope. Congress created a board to police the accounting industry. It also passed the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, requiring executives to sign off on financial statements so they could be criminally liable for posting phony numbers.

Investors were thought more vigilant, too. But they got sloppy again, and almost immediately.

Around the time of Enron's collapse, press reports detailed how Italy, years earlier, had struck complicated "currency swap" deals with banks so it could borrow money without having to recognize the debt on its books. Later, Greece was shown to have camouflaged its debt in a similar way.

In 2002, no one seemed to care. By the end of the year, Italy was paying about 4 percent a year in interest on its national bonds, roughly what the U.S. was offering and a sign that few investors were worried.

## THE HOUSING BUBBLE

In 2003, as jurors heard how Kozlowski got Tyco to pitch in \$1 million for his wife's birthday party, featuring an ice sculpture of Michelangelo's David that urinated

vodka, the seeds of a new crisis were being planted.

American consumers had run up debt to record levels by the end of 2003, and more of them than ever were filing for bankruptcy. Yet the stocks of companies extending mortgages to the riskiest borrowers, so-called subprimes, were rising fast.

Subprime was a euphemism for people who had too little income, too much debt, a bad record of paying lenders back — or all three. As home prices rose, worry that they would not meet their mortgage payments was replaced with faith that, even if they couldn't, they could always sell the home for more than they borrowed and return the money.

Lenders eventually grew so cocky that they seemed willing to give money to virtually anyone who wanted a home. They also offered mortgages on top of mortgages — so-called home equity loans that allowed people to tap their magically rising values to raise cash for flat-screen TVs or Caribbean vacations. Or to pay their credit card bills.

"If your home keeps appreciating, why not use the equity," Robert Cole, CEO of mortgage lender New Century, said at the time. If the lenders were duping Americans, they made easy targets.

Long before the housing boom, Americans were borrowing more, saving less and increasingly convinced they would not suffer the consequences. In the 1980s, Americans saved more than 6 percent of what they earned each year in income. Their debts totaled 70 percent of take-home pay. By 2007, they were saving nearly nothing, and debt had exploded to 140 percent of income.

"People were using their homes like automated teller machines," says David Rosenberg, chief economist at Gluskin Sheff & Associates and a big critic of lending during the boom. "At some point, people have to own up to their mistakes." □





## Happy Birthday Rosa with you 8<sup>th</sup> decade



Rosa Trimon Dijkhoff celebrated her 80th birthday last Saturday among her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, other families and friends. Rosa has 7 children, Jossy, Edwin, Marisa, Mirto, Orlando, Jaime & Jairo. There are in total 13 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

The musical entertainment consisted of Caha di Orgel, a musical band and a Mariachi. Rosa requested Gisela Trimon, the oldest granddaughter and Jairo's wife, Debby Angela to sing some songs for her. The party was held at Marisa's home. The purple decoration was made by Lucia Donk. □



# Marriott and Aruba honor families Oring and Insana



Recently two lovely couples were honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba at the Marriott Surf Club. They are Mr. Robert and Mrs. Marcia Oring and Mr. Dominick and Mrs. Ann Insana. Both couples have been visiting the island for over 10 or more consecutive years and are loving every minute of it. The weather, food, beaches and the lovely people are some of the major reasons they return to the island every year. The Insana couple came with a big group of family members to Aruba and are having a great time. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 to 19 consecutive years. The Certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel from ATA in the company of Mr. John van der Linden from the Marriott Surf Club. □





## Free Shirt Friday!

**Get a FREE Alhambra T-Shirt when you earn 500 points today with your Alhambra Advantage Card!**

*Alhambra cap may be substituted for t-shirt.*



**• TOMORROW •**  
**Don't miss Super BINGO Saturday!**  
**\$1,000 in CASH PRIZES & Progressive Bingo!**



**• SPORTS BOOK •**  
**Bet on all your favorite sports!**

**Cleo's**  
SPORTS BAR & GRILL

Open daily 6pm to 2am  
Happy Hour from 6 to 8pm



## Where Aruba goes to play!

Open daily 10am to 4am • J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 • 583.5000 • [www.casinoalhambra.com](http://www.casinoalhambra.com)

Must be an Alhambra Advantage member. All programs and promotions are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice.



# Open letter to the Government of Aruba Regarding the recent destruction at Palm Beach malls

This year we are celebrating 25 years of the Status Aparte and Aruba indeed may be proud on all what was accomplished.

Our island is an example how with a vision, public and private sector has put their shoulders under many projects and we have flourished and are considered an example in the Caribbean of a nation that from the crisis year of 1985 stood strong. Our nation under every Government since 1986 built, created, developed and motivated and we as Palm Beach Developers (soon to be united as the Palm Beach Developers and Merchants Association) played our part and financially contributed to the enhancement of Palm Beach and tourism, in general.

The developments at Palm Beach complimented the Palm Beach strip hotels and created approximately 1,000 jobs and enhanced tourism satisfaction, and as such generated substantial tax dollars, which in turn has had a positive effect on our island economy. For the first time in our nation's history, however, we are experiencing a major lack of dialogue that has lead to actions



that were detrimental as seen from any angle. We were forced to take down structures (signs, flagpoles, for example) that have proven their value to our merchants and as attractions to our visitors. We understand the rule of law, however, this rule of law should be transparent and consistently applied in a timely fashion to all of us. What have we gained by demolishing structures and how do you think this looks in the eyes of our tourists, investors and potential investors? Where is the (social) dialogue this Government has been so proud to introduce with the private sector?

We request a more comprehensive and fair system in regards to the application of construc-

tion policy and procedures. Our goal is to reach common sense solutions. Here we envision a relationship where Government will display a relationship of "what can we do for you" and "how can we strengthen our island's economy" within the parameters of reasonability and mutually agreed published policy. Unfortunately we have to ascertain that arbitrary decisions and lack of transpar-

ency are more common as one would expect in this challenging global economy we are faced with today.

Aruba has become the front runner in the Caribbean through entrepreneurship and free enterprise and our tourism numbers speak for themselves.

The Palm Beach area, thanks to (among others) the initiatives of the developers in this area, is alive and is being en-

joyed by both our local population as much as the many tourists that reside or come to this area to be entertained in great numbers. The Private and Public partnerships our Government is encouraging to develop should set the tone of how we can make things better and strengthen our economy. In this light we may have to adapt legislation to create even more jobs and opportunities. At the end the intention is for a win-win situation to be generated by both of us.

We welcome an open discussion with the respective lawmakers and the general public to reach a fair and equitable outcome that does not negatively impact our tourism product.

Palm Beach Developers and Merchants Association

Playa Linda Beach Resort (at Palm Beach since 1983) □

## Christmas Dinner for Fun City and Flowrider Team Work!!

This Thursday 1st of December 2011, Aruba Fun City and Flowrider had the honor to have The Christmas Dinner Reception of 2011, for Staff and Managers together. Another Great event, that Human resources organize to Thanks and support all the efforts this young, smart and enthusiast wonderful Team had been doing day after day in the organization !

This Time The dinner was at Texas de Brazil, High Rise Hotel area, starting at 9:00 pm to late on. All the assistants had a super great time together with their colleagues sharing their most weird, craziest, fun and spectaculars stories of this grand time working on this company, and with always on mind the philosophy of the Company..."We work where others have fun" □

## Yoga FOR Rejuvenation

*"Rejuvenate your natural rhythm & harmony, improve strength & flexibility"*




Regular yoga class fee \$15 p.p

**Daily Yoga Schedule:**

- Morning Yoga: Mon thru Fri at 8:00 am
- Snoozer's Yoga: Tue & Fri at 10:30 am
- Vinyasa Flow: Mon & Wed at 7:00 pm
- Beach Yoga: Only on Wed at 5:30 pm



**Manchebo**  
Beach Resort & Spa  
Aruba

**Cut out this coupon and receive a \$5 discount on your yoga class!**

Rachel Brathen | Certified Yoga Director | E-mail: [yoga@manchebo.com](mailto:yoga@manchebo.com)  
www.manchebo.com | Tel: (297) 582-3444 | (297) 749-0158

Coupon is limited to one class per person | Promotion Valid Until December 31st



# Divi Resorts and Aruba celebrate loyal guests!



Recently Mr. Jeff and Mrs. Valerie De Vries were honored as Distinguished of Aruba by the Aruba Tourism Authority. This nice couple have been visiting the Island for 10 consecutive years and are so much in love with our beautiful Island. The climate, scenery, shopping and most of all the people of Aruba is what makes them keep coming back.

They received their certificate from Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with 3 beautiful ladies representing the Divi Aruba Beach Resort, Kathling, Vivian and Shirley. □



# More honorings on Aruba!

Recently a very nice family from Holmdel New Jersey was honored by the Aruba Tourism Authority as Good Will Ambassadors from Aruba, at their home away from home the Caribbean Palm Village. Mr. Allen and Mrs. Bernadette Merken came to Aruba for the first time in 1983 on their honeymoon and their daughters Gabrielle and Anastasia started coming in 1989 when they were babies. The Merken family are very familiar with our Island, they just love the weather, beaches, restaurants and have many local and visitors friends they have known through the years on the Island. The whole family received their Good Will Ambassador Certificate from Mr. Ernest Giel from ATA in the company of Mrs. Mislady Fingal and Mr. Farley Croes. □

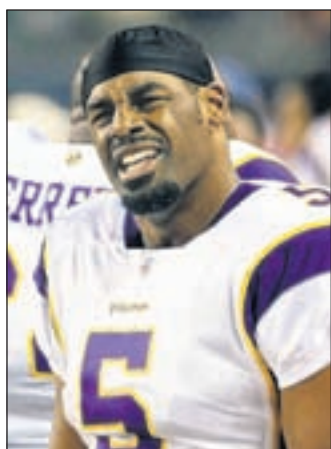




# NBA owners open doors to facilities, players returning

Miami Heat forwards Chris Bosh, left, Udonis Haslem, center, and James Jones chat during a voluntary basketball workout, Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011 in Miami. Thursday was the first day players could return to team facilities since the NBA lockout began July 1.

Associated Press  
Page 20



In this Oct. 16, 2011, file photo, Minnesota Vikings quarterback Donovan McNabb reacts on the sideline after being sacked for a safety during the first half of an NFL football game against the Chicago Bears in Chicago.

Associated Press

*It's mutual:*

## Vikings, McNabb agree to part ways

DAVE CAMPBELL

AP Sports Writer

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minnesota (AP) — The Minnesota Vikings waived 13-year veteran quarterback Donovan McNabb on Thursday, giving him the opportunity to sign with another NFL team in a parting coach Leslie Frazier described as mutual.

Frazier pushed for the Vikings to trade a sixth-round draft pick this summer to the Washington Redskins in exchange for McNabb. He wanted stability he believed McNabb would bring to the offense after the NFL lockout kept rookie Christian Ponder from practicing with the team or working with his coaches until training camp.

Continued on Next Page

# TIGER'S TOURNEY



*Woods makes solid start at windy Sherwood, Choi leads*

Tiger Woods hits his approach shot from the 18th fairway during the first round of the Chevron World Challenge golf tournament at Sherwood Country Club, Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011, in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

Associated Press  
Page 21





In this Oct. 16, 2011, file photo, Minnesota Vikings quarterback Donovan McNabb walks off the field after an NFL football game against the Chicago Bears in Chicago.

Associated Press

Continued from Page 17

Frazier and McNabb met in 1999, when the defensive backs coach and the first-round draft pick spent their first year with the Philadelphia Eagles. Friendly to the end, Frazier wished McNabb well and said part of the reason for the move was for the player's sake. "This was the best decision for both parties," Frazier said. "He was a great player and has been a great player for our league for a long, long time. Have a lot of affection and love for Donovan."

McNabb went 1-5 as a starter for the Vikings, threw for only four touchdowns and completed just five passes of 25-plus yards. Frazier said he didn't regret the trade given the situation the Vikings were in this summer, and said he believes McNabb can still play in the NFL but stopped short of saying he can be an effective starter.

"I'm not certain about that. ... A lot depends on the team he goes to, if he goes to another team," Frazier said.

McNabb was benched in favor of Ponder in the fourth quarter of Minnesota's game at Chicago on Oct. 16 and hasn't played since. Frazier said he was a help to Ponder and Joe Webb in their learning process and described as "awesome" his attitude over the last few weeks.

"He's been a true pro in every sense of the word," Frazier said. "He's a class guy. Always has been, and he's done a good job in spite of the fact he wasn't our start-

ing quarterback." The question now is whether he'll catch on elsewhere or call it quits with six Pro Bowl selections. Injuries have felled several quarterbacks around the league over the last month, including in Chicago, McNabb's hometown team. McNabb enjoyed an 11-year run as the starter in Philadelphia, going to the Super Bowl with the Eagles after the 2004 season and becoming a regular fixture in the playoffs. □

# WADA: NFLPA stance on HGH test 'not about science'

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Pro Football Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Criticizing the NFL Players Association for blocking tests for human growth hormone, the head of the World Anti-Doping Agency said on Thursday the union's objections are "not about science" and have "no substance."

Speaking at an anti-doping conference hosted at NFL headquarters, WADA director general David Howman added that the NFLPA's stance could lead one to believe that HGH use is a problem in American football.

"The players are making a very good go of trying to say it is a problem by not agreeing to be tested. I would have thought if there wasn't a problem, they would say, 'Hey, test us,'" Howman said.

"If you've got nothing to hide, open up."

The new labor contract that ended the NFL lockout

in August included a provision for HGH testing as soon as this season — but only once the NFLPA approved the process.

That hasn't happened, in part because the NFLPA says it needs more information about the test itself.

"The NFL itself are approaching this in a pretty responsible fashion, and it's a bit disappointing when you are doing things to support the clean player that the players themselves are not in the same sort of mood," Howman said.

Earlier, during his keynote speech at "The Doping Decision: Deterring Doping in Sport," a conference organized by the Partnership for Clean Competition, Howman gave kudos to Major League Baseball and its players for recently agreeing to start HGH testing in spring training — and took a jab at the NFLPA, saying of that union's hesitancy on the issue: "It's not

about science; it's about something else, and that is frustrating."

Howman gave MLB a pass for not yet adding HGH to its list of substances being checked in the regular season.

"They're doing a step which is pretty significant. ... So I don't have a problem with them doing it a step at a time," Howman said. "Let's wait for the second step." WADA's Howman wasn't exactly on neutral ground on Thursday: The NFL and MLB give money to the Partnership for Clean Competition, which funds grants for research to combat performance-enhancing drugs in sports; the conference was proudly touted on a video screen in the lobby at NFL headquarters; Howman was introduced to the audience by Adolpho Birch, the NFL's senior vice president of law and labor policy. □

# Newman-Haas race team leaving IndyCar in 2012

MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** — One of the biggest teams in IndyCar racing is leaving the series.

Newman-Haas Racing, the team started by late actor Paul Newman, has decided it will not compete in 2012. It's the first time since 1982 Newman-Haas will not field an open-car team.

Carl Haas, the team's co-founder, made the announcement in a one-sentence statement indicating the team had trouble finding sponsorship.

"The economic climate no longer enables Newman-Haas Racing to participate in open-wheel racing at this time," he said.

The move came as a surprise following a solid season in which Spanish driver Oriol Servia finished fourth in the points. Only Target Chip Ganassi teammates Dario Franchitti and Scott Dixon and Team Penske driver Will Power were ahead of Servia.



In this July 22, 2007, file photo, team owners Carl Haas, left, and Paul Newman, right, celebrate after Sebastien Bourdais, center, won the Champ Car auto race in Edmonton, Alberta. Newman-Haas Racing has decided not to enter cars for the 2012 IndyCar season.

Associated Press

Newman-Haas' other driver, Canadian James Hinchcliffe, was last season's rookie of the year.

Both were expected to return to the team in 2012, and Newman-Haas was scheduled to receive the first of its new 2012 IndyCar

models on Dec. 15. But the team was struggling to find enough sponsorship to remain competitive next season.

Servia's primary sponsor in 2011 was Telemundo, the Spanish-language television network. Hinchcliffe

was sponsored by Sprott Asset Management, a Canadian financial company. Though the team's statement did not mention either sponsor, both drivers are looking for new jobs. Neither was available for comment because they were traveling overseas this week.

Newman-Haas was one of the open-wheel teams that stayed with the now defunct CART Series when the two leagues split in 1996. It didn't return until the two sides merged in 2008.

Over the past 29 seasons, Newman-Haas established itself as one of the most successful open-wheel teams. It won eight championships, 107 races and 109 poles — but the team that had some of the most famous names in racing never won the Indianapolis 500. Among those that drove for Newman-Haas were Mario Andretti, Nigel Mansell, Paul Tracy, Sebastien Bourdais and Christian Fittipaldi. □



# Lucic scores 2, Bruins win 12th in 13 games

**TORONTO (AP)** — Milan Lucic scored twice and David Krejci added a goal and two assists as the Boston Bruins beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 6-3 on Wednesday for their 12th win in 13 games.

The defending Stanley Cup champions rebounded from a slow start this season and went 12-0-1 in November, marking the first time since January 1969 that the Bruins went an entire month without a regulation loss.

Tim Thomas made 34 saves and earned his ninth consecutive win.

Zdeno Chara, Benoit Pouliot and Brad Marchand also scored for Boston (15-7-1), which hasn't lost in regulation since Oct. 29 at Montreal.

Mikhail Grabovski, Joffrey Lupul and Matt Frattin had goals for Toronto (14-9-2).

**\*RED WINGS 4, LIGHTNING 2** At Detroit, Tomas Holmstrom's power-play goal broke a tie early in the third period, and Pavel Datsyuk and Jonathan Ericsson each had a goal and an assist in Detroit's victory over Tampa Bay.

Darren Helm also scored for Detroit, which won its sixth straight. Jimmy Howard made 33 saves, including stopping Matt Gilroy on a short-handed breakaway with 4:11 left.

Martin St. Louis and Steven Stamkos scored for Tampa Bay, and Dwayne Roloson stopped 31 shots. Lucic scores 2 goals, Bruins top Maple Leafs 6-3 for 12th win in 13 games.

**\*WILD 3, OILERS 2, SO** At Edmonton, Alberta, Kyle Brodziak scored in regulation and added the winner in the sixth round of the shootout as Minnesota beat Edmonton to move into first place in the NHL standings.

Devin Setoguchi also scored in regulation for the Wild (15-7-3), who jumped past Eastern Conference-leading Pittsburgh with their seventh win in nine games. Niklas Backstrom made 28 saves for the win.

Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and Jordan Eberle had goals for the Oilers (12-10-3), who



**Boston Bruins' Milan Lucic scores his team's fifth goal on Toronto Maple Leafs goaltender Jonas Gustavsson, left, as Maple Leafs defenseman Luke Schenn defends during the third period of an NHL hockey game in Toronto on Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011.**

Associated Press

have lost three straight. Nikolai Khabibulin stopped 27 shots.

**\*DUCKS 4, CANADIENS 1**

At Anaheim, California, Corey Perry and captain Ryan

Getzlaf each had a goal and two assists and Jonas Hiller made 19 saves as

## Anaheim Ducks fire Carlyle, hire Caps ex-coach Boudreau



**Anaheim Ducks' head coach Randy Carlyle looks toward the scoreboard in the third period of an NHL hockey game against the Montreal Canadiens in Anaheim, Calif., on Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011. The Ducks won 4-1.**

**GREG BEACHAM**

**AP Sports Writer**

**ANAHEIM, California (AP)** —

The Anaheim Ducks have fired coach Randy Carlyle and hired former Washington coach Bruce Boudreau, who was dismissed by the Capitals just two days earlier.

The Ducks made the move after beating Montreal 4-1 on Wednesday for the club's third victory in 19 games — snapping a seven-game skid.

Carlyle coached the Ducks to their only Stanley Cup title in 2007, but struggled to get his talented club's

attention this season. Carlyle agreed to a three-year contract extension through the 2013-14 season in August. Boudreau was fired by the Capitals on Monday after a slow start.

He led Washington to four consecutive division titles, but no playoff success. □

Associated Press

Anaheim snapped a seven-game skid with a victory over Montreal.

Rookie Devante Smith-Pelly scored a power-play goal and Getzlaf snapped a personal 14-game goal drought for the Ducks, who killed seven penalties in just their third victory in 19 games since mid-October. Niklas Hagman added an empty-net goal for Anaheim, which hadn't won since Nov. 11.

Andrei Kostitsyn scored a first-period goal and Peter Budaj stopped 23 shots for the Canadiens, who opened a three-game California road trip with their third straight loss. Montreal played without goals leader Max Pacioretty, who served the first game of his three-game suspension for a hit to the head of Pittsburgh defenseman Kris Letang.

Bobby Ryan, the subject of numerous trade rumors in recent days, received an ovation when he was introduced in the Ducks' starting lineup.

**\*AVALANCHE 6, DEVILS 1**

At Denver, Ryan O'Reilly had a goal and two assists, Semyon Varlamov made 18 saves in Colorado's rout of New Jersey.

Milan Hejduk had a goal and an assist, and T.J. Galiardi, Jay McClement, Stefan Elliott and Jan Hejda also scored for the Avalanche. Kyle Quincey had two assists.

Ilya Kovalchuk scored New Jersey's only goal, and Martin Brodeur made 19 saves in the loss.

The Avalanche scored three times on their first five shots. Hejduk got the Avalanche started when he beat Brodeur with a slap shot just 7:37 in for his eighth goal of the season. □





# J.H. YEE'S

珍味

## Asian Bistro





**LUNCH SPECIALS** starting at \$9,95

**EARLY BIRD SPECIALS** starting at \$14,95 (6-7pm)

**HOUSE SPECIALS** starting at \$16,95

Located at South Beach Centre | Palm Beach 55, Aruba | Tel: 586 3888 | Fax: 586 8883

# NBA players return, month after scheduled opener

**BRIAN MAHONEY**  
**AP Basketball Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — NBA stars Chris Paul and Carmelo Anthony returned to work on Thursday — and immediately were asked about working together. Dallas Mavericks players took the floor without knowing if starting center Tyson Chandler would ever join them, and the Miami Heat team they beat in the NBA finals arrived to some bad injury news. Finally, NBA players are back.

Owners opened the doors of their facilities to players for the first time since locking them out on July 1. Exactly one month after the regular season was originally scheduled to begin, players could work out but their coaching staffs couldn't be present because there isn't a new labor deal yet.

"I've got to be the happiest person in the world right now just to be back in the gym, getting a chance to work out with a couple of my teammates," Paul said in New Orleans.

"I'm just happy to be back and be back on the court, as I'm sure all the players are."

League officials hope to open training camps next Friday, and that stayed on track on Thursday when more than 300 players submitted signatures authorizing the re-formation of the players' association. That paves the way for negotiations to continue on the remaining issues, and both sides hope the deal is ratified sometime next week.

The league planned to return player content, images and videos to NBA.com and its other media on Friday after removing it when the lockout began. With the lengthy labor fight all but over, a sense of excitement has returned. "Yeah, it was," Milwaukee Bucks general man-

ager John Hammond said. The league also includes Dwight Howard.

The agent for Deron Williams told The Record of Bergen newspaper that his client would opt for free agency instead of a contract extension with the New Jersey Nets, and Yahoo Sports reported that

ing facility. "We're very close friends. I'm pretty sure you guys saw him in New York a lot due to the player meetings and stuff like that, but we've never had any conversation about him coming to New York. That's something that I would leave up to him, him and his family. I'm staying away

ing camp." Paul will do his best to ignore it.

"I don't think about it, to tell you the truth," he said. "I'm just ready to get out here and compete and hoop. This is what I do."

In the meantime, the status of the current free agents must be solved. Chandler is one of the biggest, and though he provided the Mavericks the interior defense they needed to finally win a title, they may not spend the money necessary to bring him back.

"You can't see my fingers or toes, but they are crossed hoping that Tyson's coming back," guard Jason Terry said.

"He was a big part of what we accomplished here. We've laid a foundation. To take a step backward would be terrible.

I'm not saying that we wouldn't have a chance to win this year if Tyson doesn't come back, but it definitely puts things up against us."

Chris Bosh, looking more muscular, arrived at Miami's facility, where LeBron James and Dwyane Wade aren't expected until next week.

The Heat also were without Mike Miller, who has battled injuries since signing there last summer. He will miss about eight weeks while recovering from hernia surgery this week.

There was no guarantee Miller would return anyway, given the considerable speculation the Heat would waive him via the amnesty clause that will be in the new CBA. □



**New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony, right, speaks to the media after working out at their practice facility in Greenburgh, N.Y., Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011. Exactly one month after the regular season was to have opened, players finally are allowed to enter their team facilities.**

Associated Press

ager John Hammond said. "Since it was announced that the potential deal was imminent, it occurred immediately.

I think immediately, you could kind of feel that in your gut: 'Here we go, we're getting ready to get started again.' I think as each step progresses, that will continue."

In the meantime, the big news remained the focus on the headliners of

Paul's agent informed the New Orleans Hornets that he wanted a trade to the New York Knicks.

Paul and Anthony are friends who spent time together this summer and it's long been speculated they wanted to play together, but Anthony denied trying to recruit his Olympic teammate.

"As far as me recruiting Chris Paul, no, not at all," he said at the Knicks' train-

from that."

The Anthony trade saga lasted from the summer of 2010 until Denver finally dealt him to the Knicks in February, and he said he doesn't think the NBA needs a repeat of it now. Yet, he also realizes that "regardless of what I'm saying right here today, that will be the biggest topic, the biggest discussion, at the beginning of the season, the beginning of train-



4-24HD Tv's and 2 projectors for all of your sporting needs

# BUSTER'S

ARUBA

## SPORTS BAR AND GRILL

MONDAY - FRIDAY FROM 2PM - 7PM

### HAPPY HOUR

\$3 selected Beer  
\$4 Mixed House Drinks  
Full kitchen open late

ALL INCLUSIVE  
HAPPY HOUR  
FRIDAY DECEMBER 2  
6PM - 8PM

Loco for Loco  
Monday thru Friday  
11pm - 1am  
\$ Dollars to Florin

OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY 2:00P.M. / SATURDAY - SUNDAY 12P.M. open early for FOOTBALL MATCHES

# Choi has 3-shot lead over Woods, Stricker

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

**THOUSAND OAKS, California (AP)** — KJ Choi birdied his opening five holes then held on in 30 mph (48 kph) gusts for a 6-under 66 that gave him a three-shot lead over Tiger Woods and Steve Stricker at the Chevron World Challenge on Thursday.

Woods looked as good as he did in Australia, making his fourth birdie with a 3-iron to an elevated green on the par-5 fifth that covered the flag in the foothills of Sherwood Country Club. Choi, Woods and Stricker were the only players to break 70 in the 18-man field in the final official event in America this year.

"Anything under par is a good day today with the wind up," said Woods, a four-time winner of this event and the tournament host.

"If the wind stayed down, you're going to have to shoot probably 68 or below for it to be a good score." Five of the six players who broke par — Jim Furyk, Nick Watney and Rickie Fowler were at 71 — had most recently played at blustery Royal Melbourne in the Presidents Cup.

Choi figures he had even a greater advantage. He lives in Dallas.

"I was used to playing in the windy conditions, not only playing in Melbourne, but also living in Dallas, where there's 20- to 30-mile wind every other day," Choi said. "I'm used to practicing in those conditions. I've become very comfortable in

those windy conditions."

The notorious Santa Ana wind was in the forecast, with some projections of 60 mph gusts.

But when the elite field arrived at Sherwood, there was not even a breeze. Woods and Stricker birdied the opening two holes with relative ease. Woods added another birdie on No. 4 with a 25-foot putt, and then came his 3-iron from 229 yards to 18 feet for an eagle attempt that burned the edge.

He was standing on the sixth green, 15 feet behind the hole, when a big gust backed Woods off his putt and scattered leaves raced across the fairway behind him.

On the next hole, Stricker was staring over an iron shot that was drawing right at the flag. A strong gust swatted the ball out of the sky and dropped it 20 feet short of the green into the deep rough.

Watney was motoring along at 2 under when he had a birdie putt on the 14th. He addressed the ball, backed off and watched it move, costing him a one-shot penalty.

A new rule that would eliminate the penalty stroke if deemed that the wind moved the ball after address is not effective until Jan. 1.

Watney took a positive out of that bogey.

"I might be the last player in history to be penalized under that rule," he said. "That could be a trivia question one day."

Best that he not hold his



South Korea's K.J. Choi hits his approach shot from the 18th fairway during the first round of the Chevron World Challenge golf tournament at Sherwood Country Club, Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011, in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

Associated Press

breath on that one.

Jason Day was among the leaders until the wind gobbled up his approach on the par-5 16th, leading to double bogey. Then he hit into the trees on the par-3 17th and injured his right thumb trying to play out of the mess. He made another double bogey, and then finished with a bogey for a 74.

Matt Kuchar, coming off a World Cup win with Gary Woodland in China, was 4 under until he made triple bogey on the 16th, bogeyed the 17th and had to

settle for a 72.

Woods also made a bogey on the 16th after popping up a tee shot and running into trouble with his attempt to lay up.

Earlier on the ninth hole, he had a nasty lie on the side of a hill with a large branch in his way, and he moved the ball only about 10 yards. But those were the rare mistakes.

He looked very steady for nine rounds in the wind in Australia. In more gusts at Sherwood, he didn't look much differently. He was in control of his irons and even

when he did miss off the tee, it wasn't by much.

"It looks like he's getting a lot of confidence back again," Stricker said.

"It looks like the Tiger of old, really, and it's great to see. We need him out there playing, and playing well." Stricker hit a superb shot on the 10th with the wind at his back.

After hitting driver that left him an awkward yardage — about 50 yards to a front pin — he nipped a wedge that just carried onto the green and checked up 3 feet away. He birdied the 18th to join Woods in second place, although Woods will be in the final group Friday with Choi.

Choi, even though he was three groups behind Woods, saw enough of him in the opening round. The fourth and fifth holes go in opposite direction of the second and third holes, and what Choi saw caught his attention, particularly the 3-iron that Woods hit on No. 5.

"I think he is really 80, 90 percent back to his form again," Choi said. I'm very happy about playing with him tomorrow.

Tiger is a good friend. He's got a very strong will. He's got the right mental attitude right now, and I think it's going to be a very fun day tomorrow.

"I watched him play a couple of holes today, and I was very impressed at the way he was swinging, at his rhythm, at the power he had," Choi said. "It almost seemed like watching the old Tiger back in the day." □



# 1 FREE DRAFT

PREMIUM BEER  
**Balashi**  
BREWED IN ARUBA

WITH THE PURCHASE OF ANY SANDWICH AND FRENCH FRIES OR ONION RINGS

## OPEN DAILY - 12 NOON TO 10 ISH

LOCATED BEHIND SEÑOR FROGS, ACROSS FROM THE RADISSON HOTEL

**FREE DELIVERY OVER \$40**  
FOR HI AND LOW RISE HOTEL DISTRICT - INCLUDING THE BEACH!




**5 Burgers Aruba**

Burgers, Fries... & More!

TEL  
**5863904**

## Hope for new AIDS protection seen in mouse study

**MALCOLM RITTER**  
AP Science Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — As scientists struggle to find a vaccine to prevent infection with the AIDS virus, a study in mice suggests hope for a new approach — one that scientists now want to test in people.

The treated mice in the study appeared to have 100 percent protection against HIV. That doesn't mean the strategy will work in people. But several experts were impressed.

"This is a very important paper (about) a very creative idea," says the government's AIDS chief, Dr. Anthony Fauci. He didn't take part in the research.

The new study involved injecting mice with a protective gene, an idea that's been tested against HIV infection in animals for a decade.

In the nearly 30 years since HIV was identified, scientists haven't been able to find a vaccine that is broadly effective. One boost came in 2009, when a large study in Thailand showed that an experimental vaccine protected about a third of recipients against infection. That's not good enough for general use, but researchers are now trying to improve it.

Researchers reported the new results in mice online Wednesday in the journal *Nature*. They hope to test the approach in people in a couple of years. Another research team reported similar success in monkeys in 2009 and hopes to start human tests even sooner.

A traditional vaccine works by masquerading as a germ, training the body's immune system to build specific defenses in case the real germ shows up. Those defenses are generally antibodies, which are proteins in the blood that have just the right shape to grab onto parts of an invading virus.

Once that happens, the virus can't establish a lasting infection and is cleared from the body.

Scientists have identified antibodies that neutralize a wide range of HIV strains, but they've had trouble getting people's immune systems to create those antibodies with a vaccine. □

## Jackson case highlights celebrity medicine culture



**Dr. Conrad Murray sits in court after he was sentenced to four years in county jail for his involuntary manslaughter conviction in the death of pop star Michael Jackson in Superior Court in Los Angeles. Murray received the maximum punishment in the pop singer's death but not before a scolding from the judge for violating his Hippocratic oath and engaging in "money-for-medicine madness."**

(AP Photo/Mario Anzuoni, Pool)

**By ALICIA CHANG**  
Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Michael Jackson's personal doctor received the maximum punishment in the pop singer's death but not before a scolding from the judge for violating his Hippocratic oath and engaging in "money-for-medicine

madness."

Despite Judge Michael Pastor's sharp rebuke of Dr. Conrad Murray, medical ethics and legal experts say the outcome is unlikely to dramatically change the culture of celebrity medicine.

There are doctors who will apply the same standard

of care to their high-profile patients as the non-famous. Those starstruck will be more likely to cave to patients' demands, overlook their bad habits and operate out of bounds.

"These doctors are ego-crazed and money dependent," said Dr. Steven Miles of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Minnesota Medical School.

Miles said it's dangerous when a doctor enters into an exclusive relationship with a patient especially if the person is rich and famous.

"It's the kind of environment where the normal checks and balances are very difficult to apply," he said.

Jackson's death and other recent celebrity drug-related deaths have raised questions about how far some doctors will go to cater to their clients.

Murray was convicted of involuntary manslaughter after a monthlong trial. On Tuesday, he was handed the maximum four years behind bars. He will likely only serve two years in county jail because of a recent change in state law.

Jackson died in 2009 from an overdose of the powerful anesthetic propofol. Murray told police he gave the drug nightly to help the singer cope with insomnia as he attempted a comeback tour. Propofol is not approved as a sleep aid and is supposed to be used in the hospital by a trained professional. □

Tel: 582-0697 / 583-7484  
Schotland str. 70

**Extend your Stay at**

**Quality Apartments**

- \*Studio & Loft Apts.
- \*Kitchen / Airco / Cable TV
- Less than 1 mile from Eagle Beach & 4 large supermarkets.

- \*Fully Furnished
- \*Swimming Pool

Feel free to contact or visit us.  
Mon - Fri: 8am-7pm. Sat & Sun: 9am-5pm.

**BENLO CIGARS**

Import & Export • We ship all over the world • Tel.: 5863555  
Located in the Arowak Garden, next to Salt & Pepper,  
Paparazzi and Tango Restaurant.

*We are specialized in premium Cuban Cigars.*  
**Opening hours: Mon. - Sat. 8:30am - 11:00pm**  
**Sunday 9:00am - 11:00pm**

Depending on purchase, we have discounts starting from 5% up to 20%.  
With purchase of \$20 or more 1 FREE CIGAR

**Bring this coupon for your free Cuban Cigar!**





# \$5 Bingo

Mon-Tue-Wed-Thurs-Fri-Sat. 3:30PM  
Sun - 2PM PowerBall / Progressive  
**POWER - BALL - PROGRESSIVE**

## YouTube renovates website with a new look, format

**MICHAEL LIEDTKE**

**AP Technology Writer**

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**

— YouTube has reprogrammed its website to make it easier for viewers to find and watch their favorite channels.

The facelift, unveiled Thursday, is the latest step in YouTube's attempt to make the Internet's most popular video site as easy to navigate and as compelling to watch as cable TV. In the process, YouTube owner Google Inc. hopes to make money selling ads.

As part of the redesign, YouTube is replacing its staid white background with a touch of gray.

The changes are part of the biggest renovation that YouTube has undertaken since Google bought the site for \$1.76 billion five years ago.

Although Google has been steadily adding more frills to YouTube since that acquisition, the videos on the site often were stitched in a crazy quilt that often required visitors to do a lot of searching to find what they wanted.

Google also has been sprucing up other products in recent months, including its Gmail service and news section.

YouTube's website has been reorganized to display three main vertical columns instead of scattering clips in horizontal rows. The left of the page is devoted to a column that can be customized to feature a viewer's favorite channels and monitor the videos being posted by their friends on social networks, including Facebook — a rival to Google's own Plus service. The effort to highlight channels comes a few weeks after YouTube agreed to invest \$100 million in original

programming from about 100 celebrities, media companies and video entrepreneurs. Most of these channels will debut next year. YouTube hopes additional advertising will enable it to reap a profit from the investment.

The middle of YouTube's new home page is where videos can be played. The selection will change as viewers click on a different channel included in their lists in the left column.

The far right column will recommend other videos, based on what kind of clips that viewers have watched in the past.

Bringing more professionally-produced content and more organization to You-

Tube has become more important since last year's introduction of Google TV — an attempt to seamlessly blend conventional television programming with Web surfing. YouTube's more streamlined look might make the site more attractive to watch on large-screen TVs using Google's product or other connections to the Internet. Google TV has struggled so far, partly because major Hollywood networks such as News Corp.'s Fox and The Walt Disney Co.'s ABC have blocked their content from the platform because they think it will undercut their advertising revenue and fees from pay-TV distributors such as Comcast Corp. and DirecTV. □



This screen grab provided by Google Inc. on Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011 shows the newly reprogrammed YouTube website. The facelift, unveiled Thursday, is the latest step in YouTube's attempt to make the Internet's most popular video site as easy to navigate and as compelling to watch as cable TV. In the process, YouTube owner Google Inc. hopes to make money selling ads.

Associated Press



**PHILIPS ANIMAL GARDEN**  
Habitat for Rescued Animals  
ARUBA'S HABITAT FOR MORE THAN 50 DIFFERENT SPECIES

**\$4 off**  
On animal feeding bag or t-shirt

**Opening Hours:**  
9 AM - 5 PM  
non-stop

**+297 593 5363**  
Alto Vista 116 (next to the chapel)  
[www.philipsanimalgarden.com](http://www.philipsanimalgarden.com)

## JEEP TOUR ADVENTURE!



**HUNGRY FOR  
THRILLING FUN  
& ADVENTURE?**

**FEEL THE ADRENALINE RUSH  
WITH A 6-HOUR OFF-ROAD ADVENTURE TO  
THE NATURAL POOL AND BEYOND.**

**WE GIVE YOU MUCH MORE FOR  
MUCH LESS OR YOUR MONEY BACK!**

**INCLUDED: SNACKS, REFRESHMENTS & AN  
ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT DINNER BUFFET AT  
PALM BEACH (VALUE: \$ 35).**

**FREE PICK-UP & DROP-OFF!**

**PRICE: USD 77 P/P.  
SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS  
FROM 14:00 TO 20:00.**



**LIMITED AVAILABILITY!  
BOOK NOW: 5829444 OR 7440000**

**WE AT ALL-DRIVE CAR RENTAL OFFER YOU A REGULAR  
SIZE CAR FOR \$30 P/DAY!**





# THE PELICAN NEST

*Bar & Seafood Grill*

*"For the ultimate.... Sunset Dinner experience" ...!*

**Present this ad & enjoy a FREE CEVICHE per couple with your 3 course meal.**

The best of Palm Beach, located on the Caribbean Ocean amid turquoise waters and fresh sunny breezes. The menu offers an impressive selection of fresh Seafood, international dishes, a relaxing atmosphere, exclusive seating for dinner and the option while dinning to feed the fish.

Located between Holiday Inn and Playa Linda Resort • [www.pelican-aruba.com](http://www.pelican-aruba.com)



For reservations call:  
**5862259**

# Stocks waver after biggest rally in 2 years

**MATTHEW CRAFT**  
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A rally that drove major stock indexes up 7 percent this week stalled Thursday. Stock indexes ended slightly lower, a day after the market posted its biggest gain in two and a half years.

Goldman Sachs and other banks, the previous day's star-performers, gave up some of their gains. Costco, Nordstrom and other retailers rose after reporting stronger sales for November.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 25.65 points, or 0.2 percent, to close at 12,020.03.

Travelers Cos. Inc. lost 2.2 percent, the biggest drop



**An investor takes a nap at a brokerage house in Nanjing in east China's Jiangsu province, Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011. Asian stock markets soared Thursday after major central banks acted in concert to lower borrowing costs, hoping to prevent a global credit crisis similar to the one that followed the collapse of Lehman Brothers in 2008. China's central bank on Wednesday reduced bank reserve levels to release money for lending and help shore up slowing growth. (AP Photo)**

The figures didn't change expectations for the government's monthly labor report, which comes out Friday.

Economists forecast that the unemployment rate will remain at 9 percent.

The S&P 500 index slipped 2.37, or 0.2 percent, to 1,244.59.

The Nasdaq inched up 5.86, or 0.2 percent, to 2,626.

Investors often turn cautious following giant leaps, said Sam Stovall, chief equity strategist at S&P Capital IQ.

The Dow shot up 813 points in the first three days of the week as fears ebbed that Europe's debt crisis would turn into a global panic.

Another trigger for the rally that started Monday was news that a record number of shoppers went to stores over the Thanksgiving weekend.

"It's almost like rooting for a football team that won by a very big score," Stovall said.

The next day, people are likely wondering whether the big victory was a one-off event or the start of a lasting trend.

"Lately, it seems like nothing lasts that long," Stovall said.

News out of Europe has sent stocks swinging from large gains to deep losses. One week ago, the S&P 500 was down 7.9 percent for the year.

The index is now within 13 points of breaking even. Daily moves in the S&P 500 index have been three times more volatile in the past 13 weeks compared with the long-term average,

Stovall said. Since 2000, the S&P 500 index moved up or down by 2 percent

an average of 14 days every three months.

Over the past 13 weeks, that's happened 45 times. Traders took little encouragement Thursday from a better manufacturing report.

The Institute for Supply Management said that manufacturing grew last month at the fastest pace since June.

The euro inched higher against the dollar as investors became less fearful about Europe's financial problems.

Borrowing rates for France and Spain eased after both countries had successful auctions of new debt.

In corporate news:

— Macy's Inc., Costco Wholesale Corp., Limited Brands Inc. and other retailers reported sales that surpassed Wall Street estimates.

Nordstrom Inc. jumped 4 percent. Costco rose 2.1 percent.

— Kohl's Corp. slumped 6.4 percent.

The department store chain reported that a key revenue measure dropped sharply in November and fell far below Wall Street forecasts.

Sales at stores open at least a year fell 6.2 percent; analysts had expected an increase.

— Barnes & Noble dropped 16 percent after the book-seller posted a third-quarter loss instead of the slight profit analysts had expected. Sales also fell below analysts' estimates.

— Finisar Corp. lost 12 percent after the maker of fiber-optics components reported revenue that was lower than analysts were expecting. □



## The Promenade Restaurant

*Family owned with an European and Local touch come and enjoy our famous.*

# SUNDAY BRUNCH

*All you can eat*

## A-La-Carta Menu

ALL YOU CAN DRINK MIMOSA

**"COME AND ENJOY WHAT EVERYBODY IS TALKING ABOUT"**

*SPECIAL PRICE FOR CHILDREN*

**CLOSED MONDAY**

**FOR RESERVATION**  **583-8899**

*L.G. Smith Blvd. 160 near the low rise Hotels*

of the Dow's 30 stocks. Boeing Co. had the biggest gain, 3.3 percent.

The Dow soared 490 points Wednesday, its seventh-best gain on record, on news that central banks around the world slashed borrowing costs for banks in order to shore up the European financial system and prevent a debt crisis there from spreading beyond Greece, Ireland and Portugal to much larger countries like Italy.

If a major European bank were to fail or if one or more countries there defaulted, investors fear it could result in a freeze-up in global lending markets like the one that occurred in 2008 after the collapse of Lehman Brothers.

Another rise in applications for weekly unemployment benefits dampened the mood Thursday.

The Labor Department said initial applications rose to 402,000 last week, the second weekly increase in a row.



# Economy improving, but job growth is still weak



The Bob Evans restaurant in Solon, Ohio advertises job openings. Factories are producing more. Construction is growing. Americans are buying more cars. The holiday shopping season is off to a strong start. Normally, all that would suggest a bright outlook for the economy. Problem is, employers still aren't hiring much.

(AP Photo/Amy Sancetta)

**CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER**  
AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Factories are producing more. Construction is growing. Americans are buying more cars. The holiday shopping season is off to a strong start. Normally, all that would suggest a bright outlook for the economy. Problem is, employers still aren't hiring much, the number of people seeking unemployment benefits remains high and Europe's debt crisis poses a grave threat to the future. Thursday's mixed economic picture came a day be-

fore the government will report on unemployment and job growth for November. That report is expected to show a modest net gain of 125,000 jobs, scarcely enough to keep up with population growth. The unemployment rate is projected to remain 9 percent. Analysts say the economy remains locked in a good-but-hardly-good-enough position: It's growing consistently, yet too weakly to induce employers to hire aggressively. "The economy is picking up momentum as we close out 2011," said Neil Dutta,

an economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. At the same time, it faces "an ongoing flu in Europe" and other challenges, such as uncertainty about future taxes and spending in the United States, Dutta said. For now, factories are expanding. The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers, says its manufacturing index rose to 52.7 in November, up from 50.8 in October. Any reading above 50 indicates expansion. Factories have grown for 28 straight months. Manufacturers are slightly more hopeful about the next few months because of cheaper raw materials and healthy demand, said Bradley Holcomb, head of the ISM's survey committee.

Still, he said, companies have tempered their outlook because of concerns about whether the economy will grow consistently, uncertainty about federal taxes and regulation and fear that Europe's debt crisis may trigger a global economic panic.

Mark Vitner, an economist at Wells Fargo, suggested that employers are reluctant to hire freely because the U.S. economy's future appears hazy. For one thing, a Social Security tax cut that provided an average \$1,000 in extra cash this year for about 160 million Americans could expire at year's end. Republican lawmakers did take steps Thursday to extend the cut, along with emergency unemployment

benefits. But it's still uncertain whether the money will be renewed. In addition, the Obama administration's health care reform could slow hiring next year, Vitner said, because it will require companies to provide coverage by 2013 or pay a fine. And any worsening of Europe's financial crisis could cause U.S. and European banks to cut back on lending and hoard cash. That

would slow the economy. Concerns about a credit crunch led the Federal Reserve and five other central banks to take coordinated action this week to lower the cost of dollar loans in Europe and elsewhere. Vitner said he thinks employers want to see stronger customer demand and economic growth before they step up hiring — rather than hire in anticipation of it. □

# Treasurys drop after Europe auctions go well

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Treasury prices are lower after France and Spain had successful auctions of new debt. The strong demand for French and Spanish bonds eased fears in the markets about Europe's debt problems. That diminished the appeal of ultra-safe U.S. govern-

ment debt, sending yields on Treasurys slightly higher. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.10 percent Thursday from 2.08 percent late Wednesday. Its price fell 25 cents per \$100 invested. Demand for safety assets was also weakened after Mario Draghi, the Euro-

pean Central Bank president, made comments in a speech to the European Parliament suggesting that the ECB was prepared to play a larger role in addressing Europe's debt crisis. The yield on the 30-year bond rose to 3.10 percent from 3.06 percent. Its price fell 71.9 cents. □

PALM BEACH PLAZA  
**Megaplex 8**

THE FIRST THEATER WITH CHILDREN PRICES IN ARUBA

NOW YOU CAN BUY YOUR TICKETS ONLINE USING  
**cinemaexpress** AT [CARIBBEANCINEMAS.COM/ARUBA](http://CARIBBEANCINEMAS.COM/ARUBA)

586-0074 DECEMBER 1 - 7 ENJOY YOUR MOVIE WITH

**James McAvoy Hugh Laurie**

**ARTHUR CHRISTMAS**

3D Version  
Mon - Thurs 5:30 / 7:45  
Fri 5:30 / 7:45 / 10:00  
Sat 3:15 / 5:30 / 7:45 / 10:00  
Sun & Hol 3:15 / 5:30 / 7:45

3D Version  
Mon - Thurs 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00  
Fri 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00 / 11:15  
Sat 2:15 / 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00 / 11:15  
Sun & Hol 2:15 / 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00

**Elijah Wood Robin Williams**

**HAPPY FEET TWO**

3D with Spanish Subtitles  
Mon - Thurs 4:00 / 6:15 / 8:30  
Fri 4:00 / 6:15 / 8:30 / 10:45  
Sat 1:45 / 4:00 / 6:15 / 8:30 / 10:45  
Sun & Hol 1:45 / 4:00 / 6:15 / 8:30

Regular Spanish Version  
Mon - Fri 5:25  
Sat, Sun & Hol 1:15 / 3:20 / 5:25

**Robert Pattinson Kristen Stewart**

**twilight breaking dawn**

With Spanish Subtitles  
Mon - Thurs 4:15 / 6:50 / 9:25  
Fri 4:15 / 6:50 / 9:25 / 12:00  
Sat 1:40 / 4:15 / 6:50 / 9:25 / 12:00  
Sun & Hol 1:40 / 4:15 / 6:50 / 9:25

**George Clooney Shailene Woodley**

**The Descendants**

Mon - Thurs 4:15 / 6:45 / 9:15  
Fri 4:15 / 6:45 / 9:15 / 11:45  
Sat 1:45 / 4:15 / 6:45 / 9:15 / 11:45  
Sun & Hol 1:45 / 4:15 / 6:45 / 9:15

**Adam Sandler Katie Holmes**

**JACK AND JILL**

Mon - Thurs 7:30 / 9:30  
Fri - Sat 7:30 / 9:30 / 11:30  
Sun & Hol 7:30 / 9:30

**Ben Stiller Eddie Murphy**

**TOWER HEIST**

Mon - Thurs 4:45 / 7:05 / 9:25  
Fri 4:45 / 7:05 / 9:25 / 11:45  
Sat 2:25 / 4:45 / 7:05 / 9:25 / 11:45  
Sun & Hol 2:25 / 4:45 / 7:05 / 9:25

**Antonio Banderas Salma Hayek**

**PUSS-BOOTS**

With Spanish Subtitles  
Mon - Thurs 4:25 / 6:35 / 8:45  
Fri 4:25 / 6:35 / 8:45 / 10:50  
Sat 2:15 / 4:25 / 6:35 / 8:45 / 10:50  
Sun & Hol 2:15 / 4:25 / 6:35 / 8:45

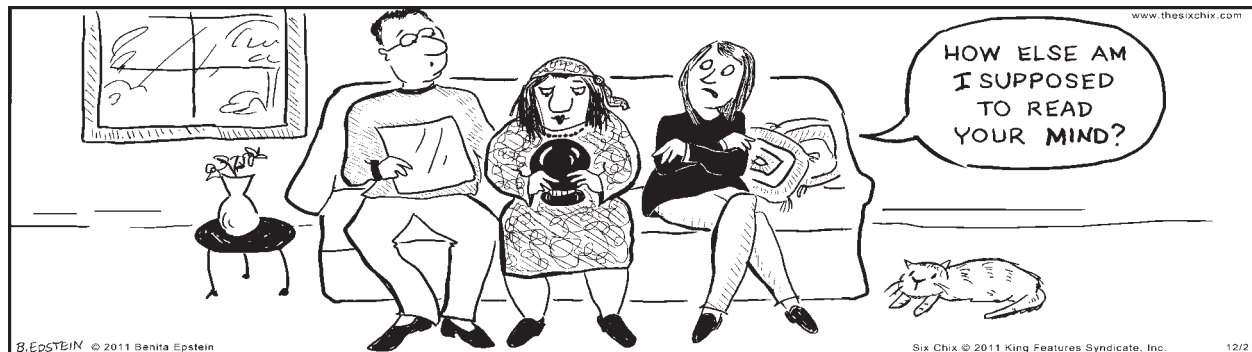
**STARTING NEXT WEEK DECEMBER 8 - YOUNG ADULT**



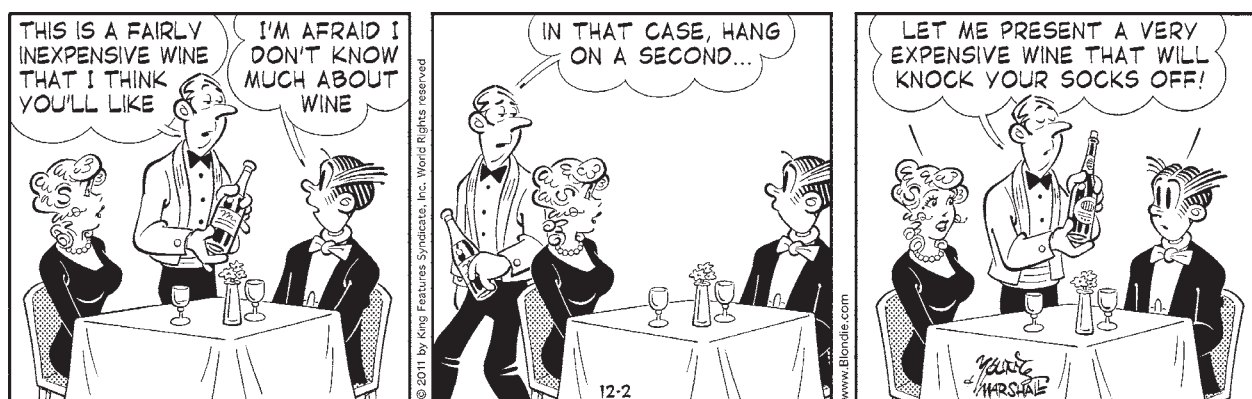
## Mutts



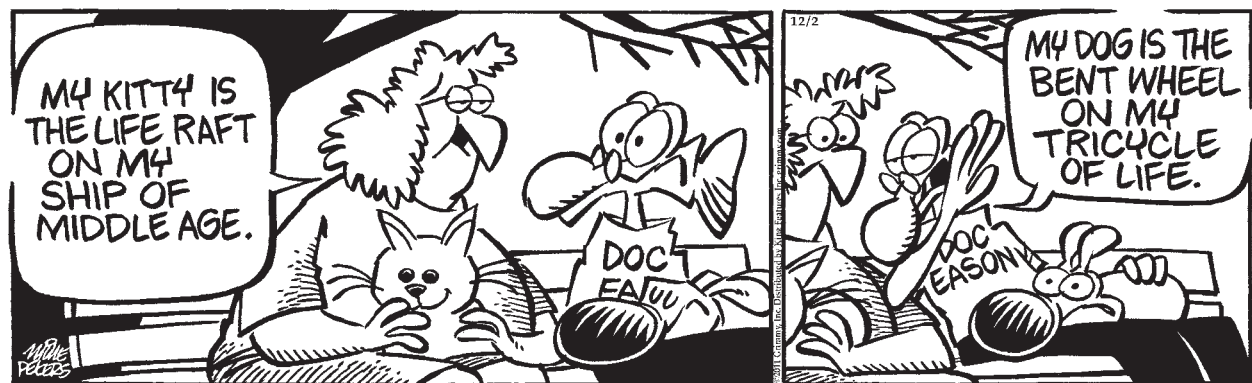
## 6 Chix



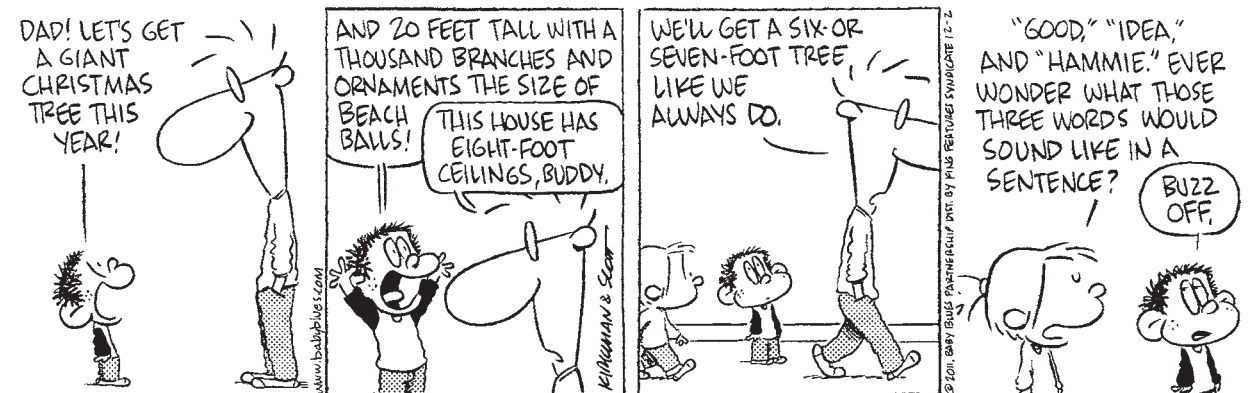
## Blondie



## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



	2			7		4	
9							3
		5		9	8		
3		9		2			
			1		6		
			7			2	6
		6	3			4	
2							9
	8		2			5	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/02

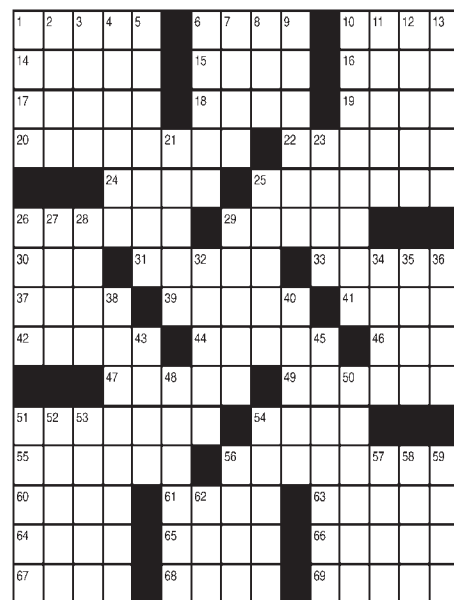
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	5	6	8	4	2	7	1	3
2	1	3	7	9	6	5	4	8
4	8	7	5	3	1	9	6	2
8	7	4	2	6	9	1	3	5
5	2	1	4	7	3	6	8	9
3	6	9	1	8	5	4	2	7
7	9	8	3	1	4	2	5	6
1	3	2	6	5	7	8	9	4
6	4	5	9	2	8	3	7	1

## ACROSS

- Prickly desert plants
- Actor Garrett
- Failure
- George Burns and Gracie
- de-camp; military adjutant
- Abundant
- Official stamps
- pop; soft drink
- Opening bet
- Clear-cut; unambiguous
- Sharp knife
- Classic work of literature
- Sunday talks
- Disgusting
- 1/16 of a pound
- "Much — About Nothing"
- Passes out cards
- Add or asp
- Reiner & Estes
- Speeder's nemesis
- Wee
- Pay for another's lunch
- Of the kidneys
- Pass away
- Dingbat
- Toots one's own horn
- Add sugar to
- Take on, as an employee
- No. 5; classic perfume
- Not extreme
- Rant and —; carry on
- Concept
- Leg bone
- Siblings of beers
- Burn
- "Grimm's Fairy —"
- State of disarray
- on to; saved
- On the ball



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/2/11

## Thursday's Puzzle Solved

## DOWN

- |                              |         |         |        |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|--------|
| 1 In —; lest                 | DIVE    | SMASH   | CUTS   |
| 2 Emcee Trebek               | OVEN    | HOSEA   | ASHY   |
| 3 Applaud                    | LAIR    | ESSAY   | JEAN   |
| 4 Bank employee              | ENLACES | MELODIC |        |
| 5 Dull; blah                 |         | GIN     | NASAL  |
| 6 Fundamental                | STEED   | BAN     | CEASE  |
| 7 Violent public disturbance | AIRS    | HUT     | MEDIUM |
| 8 Combine numbers            | BAR     | SINUSES | DAM    |
| 9 Make numb                  | ERECTS  | RUN     | LEVY   |
| 10 Shard                     | RADAR   | CAB     | RIDES  |
| 11 Local jargon              |         | RIVAL   | RIB    |
| 12 Frequently                | DROOPED | FEDERAL |        |
| 13 Looks searchingly         | RENT    | EDDIE   | ROME   |
| 21 "Ida, Sweet as Apple —"   | ANTI    | RIOTS   | IDOS   |
| 23 Rainbows                  | GOOD    | SENSE   | ASKS   |
| 25 Lazy —; revolving tray    |         |         |        |
| 26 Male red deer             |         |         |        |
| 27 Smell                     |         |         |        |
| 28 Caftan, for one           |         |         |        |
| 29 — times; days of yore     |         |         |        |
| 32 — Burr; VP for Jefferson  |         |         |        |
| 34 Helps                     |         |         |        |
| 35 Make booties              |         |         |        |
| 36 Peepers                   |         |         |        |
| 38 Uniformity                |         |         |        |
| 40 Fanatical                 |         |         |        |
| 43 Carry                     |         |         |        |
| 45 Actress Swit              |         |         |        |
| 48 Hot dog topper            |         |         |        |
| 50 Antenna                   |         |         |        |
| 51 "Skedaddle!"              |         |         |        |
| 52 Moby-Dick, e.g.           |         |         |        |
| 53 Roof edges                |         |         |        |
| 54 Stockpile                 |         |         |        |
| 56 Lunch or dinner           |         |         |        |
| 57 Competent                 |         |         |        |
| 58 Level                     |         |         |        |
| 59 Orient                    |         |         |        |
| 62 Poor grade                |         |         |        |



# Today in History

The Associated Press Today is Friday, December 2, the 336th day of 2010. There are 29 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1790 - Austrian troops re-enter Brussels and suppress the revolution.

1804 - Napoleon Bonaparte crowns himself emperor of France in Paris, taking the crown from attending Pope Pius VII.

1815 - Britain and Rajah of Nepal sign a peace treaty.

1816 - The first savings bank in the United States, the Philadelphia Savings Fund Society, opens for business.

1823 - U.S. President James Monroe declares the Monroe Doctrine which opposes European expansion.

1848 - Austria's Emperor Ferdinand I abdicates in favor of Franz Joseph I.

1851 - Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte, president of France, suspends the constitution during a coup. Street fighting breaks out in Paris.

1852 - Second French Empire is proclaimed with Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte as Emperor Napoleon III.

1854 - Austria concludes alliance with Britain and France.

1856 - France and Spain reach agreement on their frontiers.

1920 - Armenia cedes territory to Turkey by Treaty of Alexandropol while Communists seize power in Armenian capital Yerevan and proclaim a Soviet republic.

1942 - Nuclear chain reaction is demonstrated for the first time by scientists working on the Manhattan Project underneath the University of Chicago's football stadium.

1950 - United Nations agrees to hand over Eritrea to Ethiopia.

1954 - U.S. Sen. Joseph McCarthy is censured by the Senate for browbeating Army personnel with his Communist witch hunts.

1960 - The Archbishop of Canterbury visits Pope John

XXIII. The two heads of the two major religions break a 400-year-old tradition set in the 1500s by Britain's King Henry VIII and Pope Leo X.

1961 - Britain refuses Uganda's request for independence; Cuban leader Fidel Castro declares himself a Marxist-Leninist who will lead Cuba to Communism. 1969 - The Boeing 747 jumbo jet makes its debut as 191 people, most of them reporters and photographers, fly from Seattle to New York City.

1971 - Britain terminates all treaties with crucial states in Gulf, leading to formation of United Arab Emirates.



Today is Lucy Liu's birthday

1975 - Israeli jets carry out massive raids against Palestinian targets in southern and northern Lebanon, killing 91 people and wound-

ing 150. Residents of adjacent Lebanese villages in the south are among the dead and injured.

1982 - In the first operation of its kind, doctors at the University of Utah Medical Center implant a permanent artificial heart. Barney Clark, a retired dentist, lives 112 days with the device.

1986 - More than 16,000 Hindus go on a rampage in New Delhi to protest Sikh terrorist killings in Punjab state.

1988 - Arab diplomats introduce resolution in United Nations to move General Assembly to Geneva so PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat can address the world body.

1991 - Kidnappers release American Joseph Cicippio, held hostage in Beirut for more than five years. □

## FLEAMARKET Rococo Plaza

**Road 4A SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER**

**9-2.30 Tanki Leendert PARKINGLOT Rococo Pl.**

**Stand Rental afl. 25.- Place Only afl. 10.- Ph. 741-5640**

**Our Website : [www.antiquesaruba.com](http://www.antiquesaruba.com)**

**Sale: New low prized ,2<sup>nd</sup> hand, Inventory yard sale**

**Antiques,decorations,chrismasitems,clotes shoes**

**Plants,tools paint books cosmetics Indonesian Food**

## Aruba Home Minders NV

"Your Peace of Mind in Paradise"



Aruba's premier property management/rental company

Customized property management packages

Competative commission rates

No marketing fees

Fully insured [info@arubahomeminders.com](mailto:info@arubahomeminders.com)

[www.arubahomeminders.com](http://www.arubahomeminders.com)

Cell: 733-4663



## FOR RENT or SALE

**A two storey house in Cununcu Abao 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom. Beautiful area close to the High Rise Hotels. For rent \$1405 per month plus deposit.**

**Tel: 746-1516**

## Classifieds

### For Sale Renaissance

wk 48 Units 2310 +2311  
Price \$6000 (OBO)  
Tel. 737-3000

193586

Time Share for sale at below mkt wk 48 Divi Phoenix 11/26 Pent House unit Rm 416 Ocean front 2 Br, 2 bath hugh deck over looking ocean \$6800 wk 49 Pool fir. 1Br unit 105C 12/2 steps to pool and ocean \$1975 La Cabana local until 11/11 565-9394 or USA 508-651-0016 E-mail: [rmwjmw@aol.com](mailto:rmwjmw@aol.com)

193452C

Playa Linda ocean front Beach Resort studio Rm 208 wk 47 and week 48 Rm 409 Nov 20 to Dec 4 all amenities below Mkt price 3400.00 each +2012 MF USA 508-651-0016 E-mail: [rmwjmw@aol.com](mailto:rmwjmw@aol.com)

193568B

### For Rent Studio

queen sofa, king bed sleeps 4 Divi property week 12/3 to 12/10 or 12/10 to 17 for 525 USA 508-651-0016 E-mail: [rmwjmw@aol.com](mailto:rmwjmw@aol.com)

193568C

### PSYCHIC HEALER

Love Expert  
Solves all problems of life  
Reunites Lovers , Brings Luck, Health, Happiness Peace of Mind  
website [www.psychictwinpowers.com](http://www.psychictwinpowers.com)  
Call Now (210)787-8692

107082

**DOCTOR ON DUTY**  
**Oranjestad**  
2 DECEMBER  
**Dr. Yagua-Fingal**

**Pharmacy on duty**  
**ORANJESTAD:**  
Botica Dakota Tel: 588-7364

**SAN NICOLAAS:**  
Centro Medico Tel: 584-5779

**Police**

Police	581-1100
Oranjestad	582-4000
Noord	587-0009
Sta. Cruz	585-4710
Savaneta	584-7000
San Nicolas	584-5000

**Emergency Numbers**

Emergency	911
Police	100
Fire Dept.	115
Fire Dept. II	582-1108
Police Tipline	11141
Hospital	527-4000

**Oranjestad**

Ambulance	582-1234
Police	582-4000

**San Nicolas**

Ambulance	584-5050
Police station	584-5000
BGD San Nicolas	584-1606
Valero Security	584-1720

**Services**

Information	118
Setar	582-5151
Taxi	582-2116
Taxi- Tas	587-5900
Profesional Taxi	588-0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587-2300
Service Aruba	583-3232

## Cruise Ship

2 Island Princess  
Zuiderman



Aruba Airport	Tel: 524-2424
American Airlines	Tel: 582-2700
Avianca	Tel: 588-0059
Dutch Antilles	Tel: 588-1900
Insel Air	Tel: 588-9314
Jet Blue	Tel: 588-2244
Spirit Airlines	Tel: 582-7117
Suriname Airways	Tel: 582-7896
Tiara Air	Tel: 588-4272
Venezolana	Tel: 583-7674

**Foundation Fellowship Clinic**  
Tel: 584-6440  
Alcoholism & Drug Addiction, Anonymity guaranteed  
**Foundation Anti-Droga Aruba**  
(FADA) Tel: 583-2999  
**Foundation Respetami**  
Tel: 582-4433  
**Diabetic Foundation Arubano**  
Tel: 583-3808  
**Narcotics Anonymous**  
Tel: 583-8989  
**Foundation Amor pa Prohimo**  
Tel: 583-3354 / 586-6976  
**Women in Difficulties Foundation**  
Tel: 583-5400



## A black and white photograph showing a vast, flat, icy landscape under a cloudy sky. The foreground is covered in a dense layer of ice and snow, with some darker patches visible. The horizon is flat and distant.

region has changed dramatically in the past five years — for the worse.

—This year's temperature is roughly 2.5 degrees Fahrenheit higher than what had been normal since 1980. □

[illegible]



## Kim Kardashian's husband Humphries seeks annulment

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — NBA player Kris Humphries wants to undo his 10-week marriage to reality star Kim Kardashian with an annulment.

Attorneys for Humphries filed a petition Thursday in Los Angeles to annul the couple's brief marriage, citing unspecified fraud.

The filings do not contain any detailed explanation of why a judge should determine the couple's opulent, highly publicized wedding should be stricken from the books.

Kardashian filed for divorce Oct. 31, citing irreconcilable differences. The actress-model is the star of the E! Entertainment Television series "Keeping Up with the Kardashians," and her marriage to Humphries was turned into a televised special. Kardashian's attorney Laura Wasser declined



In this Aug. 31, 2011 file photo, newlyweds Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphries attend a party thrown in their honor at Capitale in New York.

Associated Press

comment.

Humphries' filing requests that if an annulment isn't granted, the couple be deemed legally separated. □

## Simon Cowell one of Barbara Walters' 'Fascinating People'



In this Nov. 16, 2011 image released by ABC, singer Katy Perry, left, poses with interviewer Barbara Walters in New York.

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Barbara Walters has named talent-show tycoon Simon Cowell, New York Yankees star Derek Jeter and pop singing sensation Katy Perry as three of the year's "10 Most Fascinating People."

Also on the list are businessman and TV personality Donald Trump, the Kardashian reality TV family, plus Jesse Tyler Fergu-

son and Eric Stonestreet, the onscreen couple from ABC's comedy hit "Modern Family."

Others include Pippa Middleton, sister of British royal Kate Middleton, and Amanda Knox, the former Seattle exchange student whose four years in custody ended when an Italian court overturned her murder conviction. □



In this Jan. 31, 1993 file picture, Michael Jackson performs during the halftime show at the Super Bowl XXVII in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

## Jackson legacy expected to thrive after trial

**LINDA DEUTSCH**  
AP Special Correspondent

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The private world of Michael Jackson, fiercely shielded by the superstar in life, was exposed in the trial of Dr. Conrad Murray. But rather than suffering harm from revelations of drug use, experts say Jackson's legacy and posthumous earning power will survive any damage done and could actually grow after he was portrayed as a victim of a money-hungry doctor. Jackson died before he could launch a series of highly anticipated comeback concerts in London as he tried to regain the towering status he enjoyed when he released the "Thriller" album in 1983.

But his death did breathe new life into record sales and boosted other projects to generate hundreds of millions of dollars for his estate, even as his already tarnished personal life took another hit by revelations about his drug use.

Jackson zoomed to the top of the Forbes Magazine list of highest earning dead celebrities and his executors are moving quickly on more projects designed to burnish the performer's im-

age and expand the inheritance of his three children. A Cirque du Soleil extravaganza, "Michael Jackson: The Immortal World Tour" opens in Las Vegas this weekend, a precursor to a permanent installation at the Mandalay Bay Hotel, and fans are expected to flock there for a "Fan Fest" exhibit of Jackson memorabilia.

After the trial, a judge made it clear that the defense effort to cast Jackson as the villain in the case had been a miserable failure. Murray was convicted of involuntary manslaughter, called a reckless opportunist and sentenced to the maximum four years in prison. Judge Michael Pastor also blasted Murray for experimenting on the pop star with the operating-room anesthetic propofol to help him battle debilitating insomnia, even though the drug was never meant to be used in a private home. Some experts say the revelations made the King of Pop look more like a regular person coping with a difficult challenge.

"In the final analysis, not a lot of damage was done," Jackson biographer J. Randy Taraborelli said. "I think

the trial humanized Michael Jackson. It presented him as a human being with problems."

As evidence unfolded, "It definitely made our hearts go out to Michael Jackson. He was a person suffering a great deal and not getting the help he needed," the author said.

Taraborelli said the entertainer's family, fans and estate executors were concerned before the trial that testimony would paint Jackson as responsible for his own death while resurrecting past accusations of child molestation and bizarre behavior by the King of Pop. But the judge limited testimony and evidence to Jackson's final months and specifically ruled out any mention of the 2005 molestation trial. Thomas Mesereau Jr., the attorney who won Jackson's acquittal in that case, believes the Murray trial did damage Jackson's reputation but said the impact would likely be short term.

"It certainly didn't help to have all this testimony about drug use," Mesereau said. "But as time passes, people will focus more on his music and the negatives will fade." □



# Ailey pulls out the stops at festive season opener

**JOCELYN NOVECK**

**AP National Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — You can always count on a few things about the annual Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater gala at City Center.

It will be a grand occasion. The audience will be packed, enthusiastic, beautifully dressed. Much money will be raised, and "Revelations" will be on the program.

Not that it should be any different. But this year's event posed a unique challenge: How to make "Revelations," that crown jewel in the Ailey repertoire, shine even brighter, to mark the ascendance of new artistic director Robert Battle and the dawn of the post-Judith Jamison era? (Plus the sparkling renovation of City Center, the company's performing home.) Clearly, a special weapon was needed. Live music? That was great, but they've done it before. Dancers spilling into the aisles and balcony? Not bad. But the surefire winner was to bring on the children.

Six children as young as 7 — students of the Ailey school's junior division — were a delightful and



**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre holds a dress rehearsal of Arden Court, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011 in New York. The work by choreographer Paul Taylor opens Wednesday evening in the newly renovated theater.**

**Associated Press**

moving addition, gazing heavenward with intensity and splaying their hands in the distinctive moves of "I've Been 'Buked," then sashaying across the stage with their elders in "Wade in the Water." Considering that "Revelations," Ailey's masterpiece, is more than 50 years old and shows no signs of fading, it didn't seem too farfetched to imagine these kids taking

the leads in 15 years or so. The evening was peppered with guest appearances, the first by singer John Legend, crooning Stevie Wonder's "If It's Magic" as the returning Alicia Graf Mack, even more lithe and statuesque than most Ailey dancers, performed a solo choreographed in 2004 by none other than Jamison, who stepped down last season after more than two

decades at the helm. Jamison's hand-picked successor, Battle, was eager to show off the sense of humor that has become a hallmark of his public appearances, tossing off jokes, hogging the spotlight just a little and making it clear he intends to be a colorful, jovial presence for years to come. Battle was welcomed warmly by the Ailey board's chairperson, Joan

Weill, who told the crowd the event had raised \$2.5 million. Speaking later was the glamorous Iman, one of the evening's honorary chairs. The other was first lady Michelle Obama, who remained in Washington and sent a statement instead.

From John Legend to Paul Taylor: The 81-year-old master of modern dance was on hand to see his 1981 classic, "Arden Court," tackled by the Ailey dancers. The men in particular gave the piece a thrillingly muscular feel; obviously new to it, they seemed to relish the speed, particularly an ending that has them literally flying across the stage and into the wings.

The graceful Clifton Brown, performing as a guest artist this season, had a romantic but too-brief duet with the lovely Linda Celeste Sims, "Prelude to a Kiss" by Lar Lubovitch. And then the piece de resistance of any Ailey gala: the amazingly durable "Revelations," this time performed by an exuberant though sometimes unwieldy cast of 50 — including 12 dancers from the junior company, Ailey II, and 20 from the Ailey School. □

## Book purports to tell DSK's side of rape charges

**JENNY BARCHFIELD**

**Associated Press**

**PARIS (AP)** — A new book purports to give Dominique Strauss-Kahn's version of events of what happened in that New York hotel suite. In "DSK Affairs: The Second Inquiry," Strauss-Kahn's biographer says when a hotel maid locked eyes with the then head of the International Monetary Fund after he emerged naked from a shower, he interpreted her allegedly seductive body language as a proposition. The one-time French presidential contender has not spoken out on the May 14 encounter that led U.S. authorities to charge him with attempted rape, and the book is being marketed as his much-anticipated side of the story.

However, in a statement signed by Strauss-Kahn —

the first since the start of the downward spiral engulfing him — he distanced himself from the account. The two-sentence statement said he has played no role in the "recent multiplication of interpretations of events concerning me ... often inexact."

"I reserve my explanations for the justice, be it French or American," the statement said, indicating that he has no intention of making his side of the story public.

Lawyers for the maid, Nafissatou Diallo, immediately dismissed the book by Michel Taubmann as "complete fantasy."

In key excerpts published in Paris Match magazine Thursday — ahead of the book's scheduled Dec. 8 release — Taubmann alleges Diallo acted seductively



**In this Aug. 23, 2011 file photo, former International Monetary Fund leader Dominique Strauss-Kahn leaves Manhattan state Supreme court in New York after a judge dismissed the sexual assault case against him.**

**Associated Press**

upon bursting in on a naked Strauss-Kahn. Upon seeing the then-IMF leader, she "started walking toward the exit. But she

wasn't in any hurry," the excerpt reads. "She stares him in the eyes. Then, she looks openly at his genitals."

The excerpt continues: "The flesh is weak."

Dominique Strauss-Kahn saw a proposition. The situation amuses him. Rarely in his life has he refused a moment of pleasure. He does not resist the temptation to receive oral sex. The act is fast, very fast."

Diallo's version of event differs wildly from those described in the book.

She has alleged that Strauss-Kahn violently attacked her when she arrived to clean his suite, forcing her to perform oral sex on him before she quickly left the hotel.

Investigators found physical evidence, including bruises on her vagina and

traces of semen in the room, but the criminal case against Strauss-Kahn was dismissed when prosecutors said they had lost faith in Diallo's credibility.

The excerpts also suggest that Diallo might be behind the alleged theft of Strauss-Kahn's work BlackBerry. Taubmann says phone records show Strauss-Kahn last used the IMF BlackBerry around the time the incident took place and suggests Diallo was one of a handful of people who could have taken it.

The possible robbery of the cell phone, Taubmann suggests, might have been part of a political plot to bring down Strauss-Kahn — a Socialist who was then widely seen as the top contender in France's upcoming presidential race in April and May. □



# Israel and the Arab awakening

THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN  
© 2011 New York Times

Israel is facing the biggest erosion of its strategic environment since its founding. It is alienated from its longtime ally Turkey. Its archenemy Iran is suspected of developing a nuclear bomb. The two strongest states on its border – Syria and Egypt – are being convulsed by revolutions. The two weakest states on its border – Gaza and Lebanon – are controlled by Hamas and Hezbollah. It was in this context that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu went before the Knesset last Wednesday and argued that the Arab awakening was moving the Arab world “backward” and turning into an “Islamic, anti-Western, anti-liberal, anti-Israeli, undemocratic wave.” Ceding territory to the Palestinians was unwise at such a time, he said: “We can’t know who will end up with any piece of territory we give up.” Netanyahu added: “In February, when millions of Egyptians thronged to the streets in Cairo, commentators and quite a few Israeli members of the opposition said that we’re facing a new era of liberalism and progress. They said I was trying to scare the public and was on the wrong side of history and don’t see where things are heading.” But, he told the Knesset, events had proved him correct. Netanyahu reportedly said that when he cautioned President Barack Obama and other Western leaders against backing the uprising against Egypt’s then-president, Hosni Mubarak, he was told that he didn’t understand reality: “I ask today, who here didn’t understand reality?” Netanyahu’s analysis of the dangers facing Israel is valid, and things could still get worse. What is wrong is Netanyahu’s diagnosis of how it happened and his prescription of what to do about it – and those blind spots could also be very dangerous for Israel.

Diagnosis: From the very start, Israeli officials have insisted that Obama helped to push Mubarak out rather than saving him. Nonsense. The Arab dictators were pushed out by their people; there was no saving them. In fact, Mubarak had three decades to gradually open up Egyptian politics and save himself. And what did he do? Last year, he held the most-rigged election in Egyptian history. His party won 209 out of 211 seats. It is amazing that the uprising didn’t happen sooner.

À Israel’s fear of Islamists taking power all around it cannot be dismissed. But it is such a live possibility precisely because of the last 50 years of Arab dictatorship, in which only Islamists were allowed to organize in mosques while no independent, secular, democratic parties were allowed to develop in

the political arena. This has given Muslim parties an early leg up. Arab dictators were convenient for Israel and the Islamists – but deadly for Arab development and education. Now that the lid has come off, the transition will be rocky. But, it was inevitable, and the new politics is just beginning: Islamists will now have to compete with legitimate secular parties.

À Netanyahu’s prescription is to do nothing. I understand Israel not ceding territory in this uncertain period to a divided Palestinian movement. What I can’t understand is doing nothing. Israel has an Arab awakening in its own backyard in the person of Prime Minister Salam Fayyad of the Palestinian Authority. He’s been the most radical Arab leader of all. He is the first Palestinian leader to say: Judge me on my performance in improving my peoples’ lives, not on my rhetoric.

His focus has been on building institutions – including what Israelis admit is a security force that has helped to keep Israel peaceful – so Palestinians will be ready for a two-state solution. Instead of rewarding him, Israel has been withholding \$100 million in Palestinian tax revenues that Fayyad needs – in punishment for the Palestinians pressing for a state at the U.N. – to pay the security forces that help to protect Israel. That is crazy.

Israel’s best defense is to strengthen Fayyadism – including giving Palestinian security services more areas of responsibility to increase their legitimacy and make clear that they are not the permanent custodians of Israel’s occupation. This would not only help stabilize Israel’s own backyard – and prevent another uprising that would spread like wildfire to the Arab world without the old dictators to hold it back – but would lay the foundation for a two-state solution and for better relations with the Arab peoples. Remember, those Arab peoples are going to have a lot more say in how they are ruled and with whom they have peace. In that context, Israel will be so much better off if it is seen as strengthening responsible and democratic Palestinian leaders.

This is such a delicate moment. It requires wise, farsighted Israeli leadership. The Arab awakening is coinciding with the last hopes for a two-state solution between Israelis and Palestinians. Israeli rightists will be tempted to do nothing, to insist the time is not right for risk-taking – and never will be – so Israel needs to occupy the West Bank and its Palestinians forever. That could be the greatest danger of all for Israel: to wake up one day and discover that, in response to the messy and turbulent Arab democratic awakening, the Jewish state sacrificed its own democratic character. □



RUSSIAN ELECTION

## A banker speaks, with regret

NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF  
© 2011 New York Times

If you want to understand why the Occupy movement has found such traction, it helps to listen to a former banker like James Theckston. He fully acknowledges that he and other bankers are mostly responsible for the country’s housing mess. As a regional vice president for Chase Home Finance in southern Florida, Theckston shoveled money at home borrowers. In 2007, his team wrote \$2 billion in mortgages, he says. Sometimes those were “no documentation” mortgages. “On the application, you don’t put down a job; you don’t show income; you don’t show assets,” he said. “But you still got a nod. ‘If you had some old bag lady walking down the street and she had a decent credit score, she got a loan,’” he added. Theckston says that borrowers made harebrained decisions and exaggerated their resources but that bankers were far more culpable – and that all this was driven by pressure from the top.

“You’ve got somebody making \$20,000 buying a \$500,000 home, thinking that she’d flip it,” he said. “That was crazy, but the banks put programs together to make those kinds of loans.” Especially when mortgages were securitized and sold off to investors, he said, senior bankers turned a blind eye to shortcuts.

“The bigwigs of the corporations knew this, but they figured we’re going to make billions out of it, so who cares? The government is going to bail us out. And the problem loans will be out of here, maybe even overseas.” One memory particularly troubles Theckston. He says that some account executives earned a commission seven times higher from subprime loans, rather than prime

mortgages. So they looked for less savvy borrowers – those with less education, without previous mortgage experience or without fluent English – and nudged them toward subprime loans.

These less savvy borrowers were disproportionately blacks and Latinos, he said, and they ended up paying a higher rate so that they were more likely to lose their homes. Senior executives seemed aware of this racial mismatch, he recalled, and frantically tried to cover it up. Theckston, who has a shelf full of awards that he won from Chase, such as “sales manager of the year,” showed me his 2006 performance review. It indicates that 60 percent of his evaluation depended on his increasing high-risk loans.

In late 2008, when the mortgage market collapsed, Theckston and most of his colleagues were laid off. He says he bears no animus toward Chase, but he does think it is profoundly unfair that troubled banks have been rescued while troubled homeowners have been evicted. When I called JPMorgan Chase for its side of the story, it didn’t deny the accounts of manic mortgage-writing. Its spokesmen acknowledge that banks had made huge mistakes and noted that Chase no longer writes subprime or no-document mortgages. It also said that it has offered homeowners four times as many mortgage modifications as homes it has foreclosed on.

Still, 28 percent of all U.S. mortgages are “underwater,” according to Zillow, a real estate website. That means that more is owed than the home is worth, and the figure is up from 23 percent a year ago. That overhang stifles the economy, for it’s difficult to nurture a broad recovery unless real estate and construction revive.

All this came into sharper focus this week as Bloomberg Markets magazine published a terrific expose based on lending records it pried out of the Federal Reserve in a lawsuit. It turns out that the Fed provided an astonishing sum to keep banks afloat – \$7.8 trillion, equivalent to more than \$25,000 per American.

The article estimated that banks earned up to \$13 billion in profits by relending that money to businesses and consumers at higher rates.

The Federal Reserve action isn’t a scandal, and arguably it’s a triumph. The Fed did everything imaginable to avert a financial catastrophe – and succeeded. The money was repaid.

Yet what is scandalous is the basic unfairness of what has transpired. The federal government rescued highly paid bankers from their reckless decisions. It protected bank shareholders and creditors. But it mostly turned a cold shoulder to some of the most vulnerable and least sophisticated people in America. Last year alone, banks seized more than one million homes.

Sure, some programs exist to help borrowers in trouble, but not nearly enough. We still haven’t taken such basic steps as allowing bankruptcy judges to modify the terms of a mortgage on a primary home. Legislation to address that has gotten nowhere.

My daughter and I are reading Steinbeck’s “Grapes of Wrath” aloud to each other, and those Depression-era injustices seem so familiar today. That’s why the Occupy movement resonates so deeply: When the federal government goes all-out to rescue errant bankers, and stiffes homeowners, that’s not just bad economics. It’s also wrong. □



# More military dogs show signs of stress disorder

**JAMES DAO**

© 2011 New York Times

**SAN ANTONIO** – The call came into the behavior specialists here from a doctor in Afghanistan. His pa-

problems in animals, the concept of canine PTSD is only about 18 months old, having come into vogue among military veterinarians who have been see-

lowed by Belgian Malinois and Labrador retrievers – have branched out into an array of specialized tasks. They are widely considered the most effective tools for

have become the major cause of casualties in Afghanistan.

The Marine Corps also has begun using specially trained dogs to track Taliban fighters and bomb-makers. And Special Operations commandos train their own dogs to accompany elite teams on secret missions – the best-known instance, the Navy SEAL raid that led to the killing of Osama bin Laden in Pakistan. Across all the forces, more than 50 military dogs have been killed since 2005. The number of working dogs on active duty has risen to 2,700, from 1,800 in 2001, and the training school headquartered at Lackland has gotten busy, preparing about 500 dogs a year. So has the Holland hospital, the Pentagon's canine version of Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Burghardt, a lanky 59-year-old who retired last year from the Air Force as a

wildly at the sound of gunfire that it had once tolerated in silence. Another can be seen confidently inspecting the interior of cars but then refusing to go inside a bus or a building. Another sits listlessly on a barrier wall, then after finally responding to its handler's summons, runs away from a group of Afghan soldiers. In each case, Burghardt theorizes, the dogs were using an object, vehicle or person as a "cue" for some violence they had witnessed. "If you want to put doggy thoughts into their heads," he said, "the dog is thinking: When I see this kind of individual, things go boom, and I'm distressed." Treatment can be tricky. Since the patient cannot explain what is wrong, veterinarians and handlers must make educated guesses about the traumatizing events. Care can be as simple as taking a dog off patrol and giving it lots of exercise, play time and



**Dereck Stevens with his military working dog before a warehouse practice drill at Lackland Air Force Base, in San Antonio. By some estimates, more than 5 percent of the 650 dogs used by American combat forces in Iraq and Afghanistan are struggling with canine post-traumatic stress disorder.**  
(Bryce Harper/The New York Times)

tient had just been through a firefight and now was cowering under a cot, refusing to come out. Apparently even the chew toys hadn't worked.

Post-traumatic stress disorder, thought Dr. Walter F. Burghardt Jr., chief of behavioral medicine at the Daniel E. Holland Military Working Dog Hospital at Lackland Air Force Base. Specifically, canine PTSD.

If anyone needed evidence of the frontline role played by dogs in war these days, here is the latest: The four-legged, wet-nosed troops used to sniff out mines, track down enemy fighters and clear buildings are struggling with the mental strains of combat nearly as much as their human counterparts.

By some estimates, more than 5 percent of the approximately 650 military dogs deployed by U.S. combat forces are coming down with canine PTSD. Of those, about half are likely to be retired from service, Burghardt said. Although veterinarians have long diagnosed behavioral

ing patterns of troubling behavior among dogs exposed to explosions, gunfire and other combat-related violence in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Like humans with the analogous disorder, different dogs show different symptoms. Some become hyper-vigilant. Others avoid buildings or work areas that they had previously been comfortable in. Some undergo sharp changes in temperament, becoming unusually aggressive with their handlers, or clingy and timid. Most crucially, many stop doing the tasks they were trained to perform.

"If the dog is trained to find improvised explosives and it looks like it's working, but isn't, it's not just the dog that's at risk," Burghardt said. "This is a human health issue as well."

That the military is taking a serious interest in canine PTSD underscores the importance of working dogs in the current wars. Once used primarily as furry sentries, military dogs – most are German shepherds, fol-



**Matt Ward, a civilian kennel technician, and rehab specialist Kelley Meyer check the range of motion in the lower limbs of Yuri, a military working dog, at Daniel E. Holland Military Working Dog Hospital at Lackland Air Force Base, in San Antonio.**

(Bryce Harper/The New York Times)

detecting the improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, frequently used in Afghanistan. Typically made from fertilizer and chemicals, and containing little or no metal, those buried bombs can be nearly impossible to find with standard mine-sweeping instruments. In the past three years, IEDs

colonel, rarely sees his PTSD patients in the flesh. Consultations with veterinarians in the field are generally done by phone, email or Skype, and often involve video documentation.

In a series of videos that Burghardt uses to train veterinarians to spot canine PTSD, one shepherd barks

gentle obedience training. More serious cases will receive what Burghardt calls "desensitization counter-conditioning," which entails exposing the dog at a safe distance to a sight or sound that might trigger a reaction – a gunshot, a loud bang or a vehicle, for instance. □